

TALES OF TINMOUTH

April 2021
Vol. 35 Number 4

Tinmouth
Vermont

Editors' Notes: *April showers bring May flowers . . .*

The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the preceding month. Please email your information to *Tales of Tinmouth* (tinmouthtales@vermontel.net) or drop it off at the Town Office.

Pat Psholka, Helen Mango & Gail Fallar



~ Telephone and Business Directory 2nd Request ~

Thanks to a grant from the Tinmouth Community Fund, we will be printing a new Tinmouth telephone and business directory. Please complete and return the form on the back page. Thank you to all who have done so, we still need more. We would like to verify all info!

Thank you for your assistance!
Pat Psholka and Nancy Birdsall



~ Annual Tinmouth Plant Sale will return Pandemic Style in April ~ by Cathy Reynolds

The Tinmouth Plant sale is a 30+ year tradition that raises funds to support the Tinmouth Continuing Education Fund.

In 2020, due to the Pandemic, the Tinmouth Plant Sale moved to the Squier Family Farm Stand on McNamara Road and was open daily from 10-7 for ~ three weeks in the spring with a round of Peonies for sale in the same location in the fall. Over \$8,000 was raised.

In 2021, we will continue this approach with the plant sale starting in April when the weather cooperates. Watch FPF, *Tales*, the Farmstand and our Facebook page "Tinmouth Plant Sale" for details. We offer Tinmouth grown and dug perennials at reasonable prices. What a great way to extend your flower gardens and benefit Tinmouth students.

We are looking for diggers, potters, and waterers. If you have some time and can help please email cathyreynolds802@gmail.com or call 446-2928.

Thanks and Happy Gardening.

~ Tinmouth Green Up, 2021 ~

By Doug Fontein

It's the time of year when our wonderful volunteers go out and gather roadside litter to keep Tinmouth beautiful. Vermont's Green Up Day is Saturday, May 1, but due to the ongoing pandemic, Tinmouth will be doing a do-it-yourself roadside clean-up again this year with hopes that next May we can return to a public event.

Just like last year, there will be a self-serve Green Up station under the porch of the Old Creamery (next to the Town Office). **It will be open from Saturday, April 24 through Saturday, May 8.** Any time during this 2-week period, you are welcome to come and sign up for a section of road to de-litter. There will be a map of the roads in town for you to mark the section you'll clean and a list for your name (please make sure to mark your section with the number from the list, so we don't end up duplicating efforts). There will be Green Up bags; take as many as you think you'll need. There will be a supply of latex gloves for those who want them. Please only one pair per person.

As you're Greening Up, please remember:

- Wear appropriate boots and clothing for the weather. Ditches may be quite wet.
- Protect against ticks. Go to the VT Dept. of Health website for more information.
- Walk on the side of the road so that you're facing traffic and stay off the travelled lanes.
- When you get to the end of your section, you can turn around and Green Up back to your starting point on the other side of the road, facing oncoming traffic.
- Don't touch any broken glass or hypodermic needles.
- You can use the one bag system where everything (trash and recycles) goes into the same bag. Or you can use the 2 bag system where trash goes in one bag, recycles in the other.
- You can bring any bags with Green Up trash or recycles to the Transfer Station during regular hours (Wed. 4-7 PM, Sat. 8-12 AM) at no charge.
- Any items too large or bulky to carry in your vehicle can be picked up in my trailer. Please call Doug Fontein, 446-2928 to let me know where those items are.

Thanks in advance for your participation. It's one of the things that makes Tinmouth a great place to live. You can call Doug (number above) with any questions.



~ April 2021 Calendar of Events ~



Dog Licenses Due	Thursday	1 st	5:00	Town Office
Fire Department	Thursday	1 st	7:00	Virtual
Sunrise Easter Service	Sunday	4 th	6:15	Sawyer Cemetery behind Church
LHMP Plan (@Sel. Bd. Mtg)	Thursday	8 th	6:30	Virtual
Select Board	Thursday	8 th	6:30	Virtual
Planning Commission	Thursday	15 th	Maybe!	Virtual
Conservation Commission	Monday	19 th	7:30	Virtual
Select Board (3 rd not 4 th)	Tuesday	20 th	7:00	Virtual
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Tuesday	20 th		Don't Miss It!

~ May 2021 Calendar of Events ~



Green Up ~ Tinmouth Style	Saturday April 24-Saturday May 8th	All Tinmouth roads
Chicken Parm Take-Out	Saturday 1 st	4:30-6:00 Church
Fire Department	Thursday 6 th	7:00 Virtual
Select Board	Thursday 13 th	7:00 Virtual
Conservation Commission	Monday 17 th	7:30 Virtual
Planning Commission	Thursday 20 th	Maybe Virtual
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Thursday 20 th	Don't Miss It!

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 Continuing Emergency Order.

~ Amphibian Crossing Alert ~

You may have noticed some brightly-colored amphibian crossing signs on the roadsides in Tinmouth. These are placed by the Tinmouth Conservation Commission in areas where there are known migration routes for salamanders, frogs and turtles. These animals move on a seasonal basis to their breeding and egg-laying sites and are at risk of being killed by car traffic where their paths cross roads.

Please slow down and avoid hitting animals when you see these signs on the roads. There are especially high numbers of amphibians moving on rainy spring nights, so pay extra attention in those conditions. If you'd like to know more about amphibian migration, go to www.vtherpatlas.org. Please do not hit, move or disturb our signs, many of which are hand-made, and please contact me if you see a sign that's damaged or moved. The signs will be removed around July 1 and stored until next year.

Thank you,

Doug Fontein, Tinmouth Conservation Commission
446-2928

Please Recycle or Pass Along Tales!

~ Homestead Declaration ~

This a reminder that you need to file an **annual** Homestead Declaration with the Vermont Department of Taxes, form HS-122. You must file this to qualify for the homestead education tax rate and to request a **property tax adjustment** if you are eligible. You must also file form HI-144 (household income), **due May 17th** (due date got extended)/ This is required even if you do not have to file or pay state income taxes.

~ Vacancies ~

There is a vacancy on the Board of Auditors. It will be a one year appointment until next town meeting.

Frank Sears has also announced that he will retire as the Town Health Officer on June 30. If you feel you have the qualifications for either of these positions, please contact the town office. at 446-2498 or tinmouthtown@vermontel.net

~ Dog Licenses Due April 1st ~

A current rabies certificate is required. You can call the Town Office (446-2498) if you don't know if your dog needs a shot or not. Fees are \$9 for neutered/spayed dogs and \$13 for those that are not. 50% penalty is assessed after April 1st.

~ **Tinmouth Grants and Scholarship Applications to the Community Fund are due May 1st** ~

by Cathy Reynolds

Applications are now being accepted for the K-12 camp scholarship fund, community grants (Round 2), small business grants (Round 2) and continuing education scholarships. All are due May 1 at 11:59 pm. Applications can be found here: <https://www.tinmouthvt.org/grant-application-instructions/>

The **K-12 summer camp scholarship program** is accepting applications which are due **May 1**. This is a cost-share scholarship and family ability to pay is a consideration. More information and the application can be found at the link above.

Thanks to a strong return from the stock market, the TCF is offering a **second round of Tinmouth Community Fund grants in 2021 for the first time**. The application form is available on the website. Groups who received a first-round grant but could use additional funding are welcome to reapply. Priority will be given to new grants, but please do apply and let us know what an extra \$500 would do to help your group. Due **May 1**.

We will also accept **Small Business Grant applications** for a second round. Due **May 1** as well.

Continuing education scholarships are also available for anyone pursuing an education beyond high school. This could be a trade school, 2- or 4-year college, or another learning opportunity. We offer scholarships for all years of college if students remain in good standing. Scholarship applications are due by 11:59 pm on **May 1**.

In 2018 we awarded the first **Pam Garceau Memorial Scholarship** to a Tinmouth Mill River graduating senior in the amount of \$2,000. Jaron Rochon received this award at the Tinmouth Scholarship awards ceremony via Zoom in 2020. Mill River graduating seniors going on to college can apply for this scholarship. The application is included in the Tinmouth Scholarship Application and is also due **May 1**.

The Susan McIntosh Lloyd Memorial Scholarship has been established to encourage and support those living in Tinmouth who share Sue's values and want to further their education. Sue valued making music and the traditions of farming and forestry. In awarding this scholarship, special consideration will be given to those who seek schooling in these areas. This is an additional scholarship of \$1200. It was shared last year by Jaron Rochon and Seamus Nauton. The application is included in the Tinmouth Scholarship Application and is also due **May 1**.

Due to the passing of *Robert and Cynthia Johnson* in the past year, their annual scholarship, which was awarded to Sadira Majorell in 2020, will no longer be awarded. We are grateful to the Johnsons for their support of Tinmouth's students in continuing their education.

All grants and scholarships will be awarded in a ceremony in Zoom or in person in June. Hope to see you all there-watch Tales and FPF for details.

For more information, google Tinmouth Community Fund or contact Tinmouthcommunityfund@gmail.com or any TCF board member as listed on the TCF website.



~ **Library News** ~

By Ruth Drachman, Librarian

Reading fuels the fires of intelligence. In other words, it is important to read to your child. Kids generally love to be read to. You can read to them at bedtime. You can read to them at a time during the day. It is a quiet activity which settles them down.

Adults like to be read to also. Nothing beats a good story. Story telling is fun! Fun for the story teller and fun for the listener.

I recommend books by James Herriot for adults. His stories of being a veterinarian in Yorkshire in England are very entertaining.

The library isn't open yet, but hopefully will be soon. Keep Reading!

~ **Be SEEN in Tinmouth** ~

By Cathy Reynolds

It is very helpful to motorists if walkers, runners and dogs are easy to spot at all times of day or night. Wearing high visibility gear while biking, walking or running is important so you can be seen. Even during daylight hours, shadows or shade or changes in light may make it hard for those exercising on our roads to be seen. Please, please will you consider outfitting yourself and your dog in a high visibility reflective gear and wearing it when you are out on the roads?

The Tinmouth Community Fund provided grant funds for this purpose. There is still money left for dog and people reflective vests or hats. We have outfitted 17 people and 8 dogs so far. We have a very lightweight jogger's mesh vest with Velcro closures that is one size fits all, and zip up vests with pockets in S-2XL. We have enough money left to provide more vests for dogs and people, and perhaps a reflective hat or two. We can provide these items at no charge if you promise to wear them when walking/jogging on the roads.

If you are interested, please email cathyreynolds802@gmail.com or call 446-2928. We will determine which items and sizes you need and procure them for your safe walking future.

Longer days and warmer air make it a great time to hit the roads in a new piece of high visibility garb. If the grant is successful and we cannot meet the need, we can write a second grant in May to continue to fill requests. Happy walking everyone!



April 1, 2021

To the Tinmouth Community,

The crocuses are blooming in the school garden. What a welcome sight!

It's been a year since pandemic restrictions have significantly altered our school routines. Currently, there is an increase in cases among school age children across Vermont. Tinmouth School has been spared from a spread of Covid cases to date. This is due to the thoughtfulness and care of our community. Parents have kept children home when family members are sick. We are grateful for this! Now that vaccines are being widely distributed and restrictions have been eased, it is important to remember that vaccinated adults can carry the Covid virus and infect others. It's critical for our children's safety to continue wearing masks and maintaining social distancing.

We are accepting registrations for our fall pre-K program. Registration packets will be available starting April 1st. Registrations are accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Up until May 15th, priority is given to Tinmouth residents and to students currently enrolled in the pre-K program. After May 15th, the pre-K program will be open for enrollment based on availability to all students who have completed the registration package. Please call the front office (446-2458) if you would like to pick up a registration package or have one mailed to you.

Tinmouth Mountain School has a new art teacher! Tammie Engelhart has accepted the art teaching position shared between Tinmouth Mountain School and Wallingford Elementary. Tammie's background is in sculpting. She attended Pratt Institute in NYC . We are delighted to welcome her to our team!

Students in grades 2 and 3 wrote biographies of St Patrick in March! They shared these with older grades as well as our friend and advocate, Nelson Jaquay last week in the outdoor amphitheater. (Our amphitheater consists of the 15 stumps lining the perimeter of the macadam basketball court in front of the school).

Students in Grades 4, 5, and 6 are learning to recognize stereotypes. They are questioning the impact various forms of stereotypes have on our assumptions. Students have identified common stereotypes seen daily on computers, TV commercials, and magazines. Through awareness of stereotypes that are presented through various forms of media, students are learning to think critically and recognize that there is more than one perspective. They are also examining the influence

media has on how we define ourselves. These critical thinking lessons align with the Common Core Curriculum

Students took the English Language Arts state tests on March 30th, 31st, and April 1st. Vermont math and science tests will be administered following spring break.

Spring break is from April 12th through the 16th.

Although there are no school-sponsored sports this spring due to pandemic restrictions, there are several programs available that are not school sponsored including the following:

Girls Softball:

Jesse Williams
cesbaseball@gmail.com
802-345-8513

Little League:

<https://www.rutlandcountylittleleague.com/Default.aspx?tabid=2057975>

Girl Scouts:

Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains

Serving New Hampshire and Vermont
1 Commerce Drive
Bedford NH 03110-6835
888.474.9686
Fax: 603.627.4169
Email: t Downing@girlscoutsgwm.org

Thank you as always, for your ongoing support!

Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker
Principal
Tinmouth Mountain School

~ Local Hazard Mitigation Planning ~

This is public notice that the Town of Tinmouth is currently engaged in hazard mitigation planning and is updating the Tinmouth, Vermont Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The LHMP Committee has completed a draft Plan that will be presented to the Select Board, Planning Commission and Conservation Commission on Thursday April 8th at 6:30 (regular Select Board meeting date.)

If you would like to review this document, please call the town office and an electronic or paper version will be sent to you. There will also be a two week time for public input.

For more information on the planning process or opportunities for public input, contact Steffanie Bourque at the Rutland Regional Planning Commission—sbourque@rutlandrpc.org or 802-775-0871 x206.



TINMOUTH
CHURCH

~ Tinmouth Community Church ~

Spring, like Easter, is all about resurrection, the coming back to life of that which seemed dead. Slowly, but surely, the grass on our lawns and in our fields green up; crocuses, daffodils and tulips rise up; and peepers and bears wake up, as all the earth comes alive with new life. This resurrection of the earth and its creatures is telling us something - that resurrection is true for us as well.

This was the triumphant message of that first Easter, when very early in the morning, the disciples of Jesus went to his tomb and found it empty. "He is not here," an angel told them. "He is risen!" Shortly thereafter, Jesus himself appeared to them. And in the course of the next fifty days, he appeared to hundreds of followers before ascending into heaven. He was no phantasm. They touched him. They talked with him. They ate with him. But at the same time, he was more than flesh. He was spirit capable of manifesting as flesh, while not being limited to it. Oh, the wonders of a resurrected life!

Jesus, in rising from the dead, was assuring us that physical death is not the final word about our life - life eternal is.

Resurrection - it is hard to believe if you have not seen Jesus for yourself (more people than you might think have, my mom included); or seen, felt, heard or received a sign from a deceased loved one (a very common experience); or have had a paranormal experience of spiritual reality (many people have); or an out-of-body or near-death experience (not uncommon); or have had a "dream" or waking vision in which the spiritual realm of the living was disclosed; or simply take to heart in faith that testimony which quickens our hearts with hope - the grasses greening, the flowers blooming, the critters waking up, the proclamation of Easter - "He is risen! He is risen indeed!"

**Easter blessings to you all,
Pastor John**

Pastor John can be reached by email at hzfam@hotmail.com or by phone at 802-417-1491 or 802- 282-7532.

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

Rev. John Hardman-Zimmerman

Holy Week Services will be available online at www.tinmouthchurch.org on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Sunday Services are online every week.

Brief Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Sawyer Cemetery (on Bliss Rd. behind the church) at 6:15 am. You might want to bring a hot beverage (campfire provided).

Sunday Services outside in the church parking lot will resume Easter Sunday at 9 am, if the air temperature is above 60 degrees.

At all gatherings, please wear masks and maintain social distancing.

Wednesday evenings online Zoom gatherings at 7 pm. We will be discussing unanswered prayer and the silence of God, using Pete Greig's 5-part video series. Google "God on Mute: Prayer Course 2" to access the videos. Series begins April 7th with the first video. Jump in any time!

Chicken Parmesan Take-Out/Drive-Through Dinner, Saturday, May 1st at the church from 4:30 - 6:00. \$10.00/meal. Delicious!

**Chicken Parmesan Take-Out Dinner
May 1, 2021
Tinmouth Community Church**

Menu:

Chicken Parmesan served over Spaghetti
with Homemade sauce
Roll
Brownie Dessert
Cost \$10 per meal

Pre-orders suggested but not required
Call Bob at 802-989-9794 or John at 802-282-7532
or email John at hzfam@hotmail.com

**Meals can be picked up from 4:30 - 6:00 pm
Take Out Only**

~ Community News ~

Get Well Wishes are sent to **Carol Bohlin, Ari Fallar, and Pat & Gary Jaquith.**

Heartfelt Sympathies are sent to family and friends of **Ione Chisamore.** And to **Ralph Cameron II and family** for the loss of his mother.

~ Meeting Highlights ~

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

Select Board ~ 3/11/21

Present were members Meadow Squier, Frank Sears, and Cathy Reynolds, as well as Stan Wilbur – Public Works Project Manager, Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Ronnie Crossman – road crew, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, David Birdsall-Tree Warden, Chris Martone-Transfer Station Manager, Michael Fannin-EMD, Michael Fallar, Pat Psholka, Grant Reynolds, and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant (SBA).

Frank called the meeting to order noting per Grant Reynold's *History of Tinmouth*, the Board is turning the page on the town's 247th year. He welcomed Meadow as a new member to the Select Board, thanked Michael Fallar for his service of the past 3 years, and noted the first order of business was to re-organize the Board.

Gail administered the Oath of Office to Meadow virtually.

The Board re-organized as follows:

Elect Chair – Frank offered to serve as Chair. Cathy moved that the Board adopt a policy of rotating the Chair so that a member would serve as Chair during the 3rd year of their term, and nominated Frank, Meadow 2nd, all voted in favor.

Set Regular Monthly Meetings – Board voted to set the 2nd Thursday and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm.

Designate Signer for Bills and Orders (Chair) – Board voted that the Chair be so designated.

***Newspaper of Record** – Chose Rutland Herald

***Adopt Robert's Rules for Small Boards**

***Appoint Overweight Truck Permit Signer** – Appointed Chair

***Appoint Member to Community Center Board** – Cathy volunteered

***Appoint Member to Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project Board** – Meadow volunteered

***Appoint Liaison to Public Works Facilities Project Manager** – Cathy volunteered

Board voted for all of *above.

Highway ~

Eric reported all ditches had been opened, roads were drying out and they were hauling gravel. Board inquired about the status of the voucher for the new truck. Gail advised the company is still reviewing and was told to be patient. It should be passed through the truck dealer - Delurey has not heard anything either.

'What If Plan' – Eric provided maps of the snow plowing routes, Board asked for clarification.

Emerald Ash Borer – Eric reported that the estimate from Trees Inc. for the Gulf/McNamara/Route140 loop was \$55,000 to remove about 400 trees – there are 800

there, but GMP may take care of the other 400. Work includes removing dangerous trees, leaving the firewood and chipping branches. Cost per tree is determined by its size – over 30" is \$1,000, for instance.

David advised he will contact Vermont's Department of Forest and Parks to see if there is any FEMA or other government source of help available. Gail noted she had inquired about adding workers to the road crew from the insurance company, waiting for a response.

Board discussed the need to prioritize the list of which trees need to come down first, flag them, and still wants a proposal for work which can be budgeted and planned.

Summer Work Plan ~ Eric presented a list, in no particular order. Board discussed work to be done, some is to meet the Stormwater Rules and Plan - projects on Merrill Spring Road and McNamara Road are easy fixes for that; Potter's Brook culvert replacement is waiting for grant approval, work on North East Road is ditching for the grant-in-aid project.

Frank inquired about weighing the road work versus the site work needed for the town garage. Eric advised road crew could do it all, but he recommended hiring Dan Allard to do the site work. Board noted there had been money budgeted to hire part-time help for the road crew and the site work crew. Stan advised that going out to bid may require additional engineering and would cost more than using the town's own work force. Eric noted good help is hard to find. Board discussed town's equipment, was it big enough to pull the stumps? The Town's Procurement Guidance/Policy says bids are required for work over \$10,000. It was suggested that the work be divided into segments so that requirement did not have to be met. There could be 3 smaller projects. It was also suggested that the Procurement Policy could be amended.

Stan advised that he would meet with Eric and Dan and they would lay out a plan for time, work to be done, break-down by task, etc. for the Board's meeting on the 23rd. Work includes clearing and grubbing the site, finish grading, retention pond/area, well, holding tank for septic, etc. It was noted that there are other contractors in town.

Eric inquired if the piles of ditching materials that have accumulated where the new garage is going to be built, could be given to Dan Allard so that he could fill in the Fish's barn foundation. Board asked about its intended use (Harrington Cross Road fill-in – but there are other sources for that, Eric advised) was it going to be removed for free, could the town be paid for it, etc. Eric will talk with Dan and report back.

Sawyer Cemetery ~ Stan requested permission for the Tinmouth Community Church to use the Sawyer Cemetery for an Easter Sunrise Service. Board voted to grant the Church permission, provided they obtain a burn permit from the Fire Warden and follow CDC guidelines for public gatherings.

Public Works Facilities ~ Stan reported Morton Buildings had sent a revised contract. Gail reported she had sent it to the attorney for review and had not yet received an answer. Stan noted he didn't think that was necessary – and that Morton wanted the contract and their \$5,000 check ASAP. Stan also reported that Otter Creek Engineering and the State were still reviewing the stormwater permit – expected the final review to be complete any day. Stan inquired about whether the road crew was going to work on the roads or the town garage site. No decision.

Covid19/EMD - Michael Fannin, EMD, advised that the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was in its final draft for review by the Select Board and asked that it be added to the agenda for the Board's April 8th meeting. Board agreed, with a start time of 6:30. Michael also noted that the Local Emergency Operation Plan would need to be re-adopted by May and he would be sending along a draft for the meeting on the 23rd.

Board discussed if there is a need to contact elders in town for daily check-ins. There are folks willing to call, are there folks willing to be called? How does this list come to fruition? Frank thanked Michael for his efforts in that regard.

Transfer Station Safety ~ Chris thanked the Board for their service. He reported a slip and fall at the Transfer Station after the last ice storm. The fellow who fell is okay and was not hurt, mostly embarrassed. Chris called to check on him. Chris would like to prevent falls in the future, noting that the road crew usually does a good job, but this time more sand was needed. It was on a Saturday morning. Board discussed if the road crew should be called (overtime) or if the transfer station attendants should be responsible. Gail advised current attendants are in their 80's and that it has been the road crew's responsibility. Board decided that the road crew could leave a pile of sand near the attendants shed for them to spread. Slip and fall was between the dumpster and the recycling shed.

Financial ~ Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm, due to loss of electricity at the SBA's house – remainder of agenda was moved to 3/23/21. No power, no Wifi!!

Cathy noted that the Board needed to discuss whether the town garage expenses to date should come from the Capital Building Fund or regular highway expenses – currently where they are being shown.

Select Board ~ 3/23/21

Present were members Frank Sears, Meadow Squier, and Cathy Reynolds, as well as Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Stan Wilbur – Public Works Project Manager (7:15-7:45), Paul Morris, Grant Reynolds, and Gail Fallar – SBA.

Board reviewed agenda; Frank requested adding a report from the joint Four Town Sheriff Patrol meeting;

Cathy requested adding discussion to switch to Zoom for virtual meetings, and Ash tree proposal from David Birdsall. All were added.

~ Highway ~

Eric reported roads are drying out, pre-grading on gravel roads will start next week, have been filling in pot holes – mud season is here. He advised that the grader needed cylinders rebuilt, he is finding someone to do that, and they are trucking in winter sand for next year. Board inquired about new truck, Eric advised that it was supposed to be built starting on March 3, and will be sent to Viking for the equipment to be installed – he will call DeLurey's to check on progress.

Salt Budget Surplus Re-directed ~ Eric inquired if some of the balance in the winter salt budget could be used to purchase more gravel, as more gravel is needed this spring and hopefully no more salt should be necessary this fiscal year, surplus may be around \$17,000. After brief discussion, Board authorized up to \$10,000 could be used for more gravel.

Trailer for the Chloride Tank ~ Eric inquired about purchasing a trailer to keep the chloride tank on. Board inquired about the size (5 ton); need (ties up the one ton for a month or more and requires removal of the toolbox so the road crew does not have the chainsaw and other tools and would save putting it on and taking it off a truck); cost (new about \$5,000). After discussion, Board asked Eric for a written proposal at their April 8th meeting to include the need, cost, benefit, etc.

Emerald Ash Borer – Board briefly discussed emailed proposal from David Birdsall, had questions, postponed until the April 8th Board meeting, and asked Gail to investigate insurance questions regarding hiring extra road crew for removing the trees.

Summer Work Plan ~ Board discussed the need to determine how to cover employees on vacation, part-time worker(s) needed for road work and site work on the town garage, the need to formulate a work plan, whether to advertise for part-time workers, how many dollars are available - \$5,000 for extra help is budgeted for FY21 (\$4,600 is still available); \$5,000 for FY22 which starts July 1st, and some that was included in the bond budget for the town garage – and it was suggested to look for surpluses in the FY21 budget. Hourly rates were discussed, current hourly rate adopted range is \$18 - \$25 per hour depending on experience, CDL, training, etc. June, July, and August will be the time that needs to be covered. Eric will determine a potential employee's availability – may need to advertise for someone.

Board asked road crew to use their vacation before year end, will need to keep a 2 man crew working, asked for a plan for that to happen.

Board requested information regarding part-time workers and benefits allowable. Personnel Policy notes

part-time and short-term are not eligible for benefits (health insurance/retirement).

Public Works Facilities Update ~ Stan advised he was preparing bid documents for the grubbing and clearing the site of the new town garage to be sent to 3 contractors in town. Board put this on hold, and then discussed a proposal from Dan Allard to remove the overburden piles at no charge to the town to allow them to fill in a foundation. Board voted to approve Allard Construction to haul away the material stored on the new town garage site at no cost to the town in return for the material, site to be left level. Cathy will write a short contract to be signed before material is moved, certificate of insurance will be needed as well. Eric advised the road crew will take care of removal of the few trees that are on the site.

Morton Buildings ~ Stan advised that he is waiting for Morton to provide two concepts – one for a 4 bay garage and one for a 3 bay garage – neither to exceed \$500,000, using the Morton building program, not the NBF design; will require a special meeting to consider.

State Storm Water Permit ~ Stan advised he is still waiting for state review to be completed and approval granted.

~ **Financial** ~

Financial Report – Board voted to accept.

Warrants Reviewed ~ Payroll Warrants #35 dated 2/28/21 for \$2,993.71, and #36 dated 3/8/21 for \$2,669.08; and Accounts Payable Warrant #17 dated 3/8/21 for \$22,377.18 were reviewed and approved.

Delinquent Tax Collection ~ Cathy noted a taxpayer had inquired about the delinquent tax budgeting process, wondering how the amount due got so high, but was only budgeted at \$25,000. Gail advised that Sullivan & Powers, currently auditing for the bond borrowing, was advising that the town should not be budgeting for it at all. The amount budgeted for taxes is never fully collected in the fiscal year, and by not budgeting for delinquencies, that will help offset that shortfall. Practice has been to budget for what was expected to be collected from prior years delinquencies, estimating a best guess. Board decided they would like more information at budget time regarding long term collection and amount due, as well as monthly or quarterly reports regarding who is delinquent. Gail noted that much of the amount due on 12/31/20 is from FY21 – current fiscal year, and will be collected by the June 30 end of year.

~ **Old Business** ~

Trash at 605 Mountain View – Gail has been unable to locate ticket book, but advised that the Rutland County Sheriff's Department is able to write tickets for Solid Waste Ordinance violations. Frank advised he will work with them to do that.

72 Snow Mountain Lane – Frank, as Health Officer, advised that his site visit did not find any violation of the

Solid Waste Ordinance or a public health problem– he sent photos to members, no evidence of trash were visible. Board advised Frank to contact landlords to advise it was not a town issue – it's a landlord/tenant dispute.

Personnel Policy (PP) Review – Cathy noted proposed amendments were suggestions and explained reasons for them.

*Board discussed requirement for full time elected officials to sign *Addendum B – Agreement by Independently Elected Officer to be Bound by Personnel Policy*, as a condition of employment and receipt of benefits – question arose if the SB had that authority – as the Select Board was attending SB training the next day, Board will inquire there. Board was not happy to hear that Eric and Gail had not signed previously – the PP has been in effect for a number of years and PP Committee spent a lot of time developing the whole policy.

*Cathy discussed the desire for more detailed time sheets – currently the Board reviews road crew time sheets at its meetings. Board wants to understand what work is being done by town office staff and transfer station crew.

*Change to accrued vacation days for employees hired after 3/1/21 – proposal is to reduce the days that can be accrued to ensure vacation days are being used and that there is not a big payout when an employee leaves.

*Language regarding employees leave/travel being restricted during times of an emergency/pandemic. Is this legal? Board will check on this as well.

No action taken, added to the agenda for April 8th meeting.

Constable Appointment ~ Paul Morris advised that he has been honored to be the town's 1st constable for the past 3 years and would very much like to continue in that role. He has not and will not charge the town for his time. Board discussed current constable role – no law enforcement per town vote several years ago – Paul noted it's mostly being a glorified dog catcher. And that he has been in private security for 22 years. Board discussed what skills are needed; would the role include mediation between neighbors, tenants/landlords; no \$'s budgeted for FY22. Board tabled until April 8th meeting to allow the Board to think about it. Frank thanked Paul for his patience waiting this evening, a long meeting!

What If Plan – Gail noted that an additional item to be added deals with the town's website and how administration for the hosting and domain name is paid – currently costs are charged to a Select Board's credit card, who is then reimbursed. Discussion about the town getting a credit card, policy for use will need to be developed.

Personnel Review - Board discussed how to do, hasn't been able to come up with a good model since the Personnel Policy was adopted and recommended an annual review. Much discussion about how it is difficult

in a small town, with elected officers. No resolution. Board noted that communication is important, Select Board is always willing to listen.

~ **New Business** ~

Auditor Resignation – Board accepted Nancy Birdsall’s resignation as one of the town’s auditors, will advertise vacancy. Thanked her for her service.

Annual Appointments ~ Please see page 11. Did not appoint constables, or health officers – need to post notice as Frank is retiring as THO on June 30. Board voted to dismiss the Building Committee with great thanks.

Board voted to appoint as listed and discussed. Cathy noted that all these committees have public meetings, anyone is always welcome to attend or join.

Gail noted that the Housing Rehab Committee, now the Select Board, should meet to review the program – began in the 1990’s and current status of loans/repayment.

Select Board Operating Principles ~ Frank spoke to the need of putting in writing how the Select Board acts towards one another and towards the public. He adapted Middlebury’s to fit Tinmouth – they have a town manager, we do not. Cathy edited a bit further, and after brief discussion, Board voted to adopt.

Four Town Sheriff’s Patrol ~ Frank reported on the meeting from the night before with representatives from Ira, Middletown Springs, Danby and Tinmouth (him) and the Rutland County Sheriff’s Department (RCSD) regarding the continued program of these four towns sharing a deputy for 40 hours per week. With the pandemic, revenues from tickets are down, there was a period where almost no tickets were issued, as unless it was really egregious, traffic stops were not made. RCSD is going to be providing educational materials for towns to use for Front Porch Forum, educating town folks about the benefits of the program, etc. Frank also noted that if Tinmouth had a stop-sign ordinance, part of the ticket money would flow to the town, not all going to the state. After brief discussion, he volunteered to work on a proposal.

He also advised that if the Board needed to direct the deputy on a day-to-day basis, the SB could contact the deputy directly; legal – serving papers, etc. still needs to go through the RCSD office.

Members Concerns – Cathy noted she had a couple of complaints regarding the Town’s use of the GoToMeeting program, suggested switching to Zoom. She also reminded the Board of the need to adopt a political sign ordinance – asked that it be placed on the April 8th agenda. She also noted that long time Tinmouth benefactor, Ramsey Yoder had passed and asked that the Board consider naming the community center, the Patty and Ramsey Yoder Community Center in honor of them and their donations to Tinmouth. She also suggested a community celebration this summer, if possible, in that regards. Their ‘anonymous’ donations enabled the town

to build the community center, upgrade the fire house, and provided for many other enhancements to Tinmouth’s sense of community.

Next Meetings Schedule ~ April 8th and April 20th (3rd Tuesday not 4th)

Conservation Commission ~ 3/15/21

With thanks to Chuck Bronk, Sec.

Members online: Doug Fontein, Ed Hasenohr, Jeff Ams, Nelson Jaquay, Rainbow Squier and Chuck Bronk

Public online: Nancy Birdsall, Tess McGinley, and Cathy Reynolds

CC re-organized: elected were Rainbow Squier-Chair, Doug Fontein -Vice Chair and Chuck Bronk-Secretary.

It was agreed that regular meetings continue on the 3rd Monday at 7:30 P.M. every other month.

New Business:

Doug introduced Nancy Birdsall, Tess McGinley, and Cathy Reynolds, members of the Tinmouth Walking Club. Nancy and Tess described the intent of the Club to create a tiny guidebook of trails and walking loops in Tinmouth. This might allow an individual to check off trails once they had traversed them. These might include both private property and town property. They might be made available for walking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, or snowmobiling. Cathy described the one in Middlebury, which encompasses some 45 miles of trails. There may also be one in Middletown Springs. The concept would be that landowners might issue blanket or individual permissions for the use of their trails. Nancy posed the question of how to best publicize their intent. All agreed that the Tales and Front Porch Forum would work well. Tess characterized walking on some town roads as dangerous, given the speed of vehicular traffic and described their intent of connecting walking trails that would hug the Channel and jump over roads like Route140. Nancy related the group’s intent to set a meeting at the Old Creamery of interested parties with a Town Map, which included names of landowners to allow for such connections to be made. Cathy commented that this would be a volunteer group, open to anyone, not requiring a Warning. Nancy suggested that they would set this when the weather warms up and sugaring is over. Doug invited a representative of the Tinmouth Mountain School to discuss their Literature Trail, but they were unable to attend. It was agreed that we table this topic to a future meeting.

Robbie Leeds was unable to attend, but told Doug before the meeting, that he would walk the Purchase Loop Trail and get it on Alltrails.

Regarding the Drachman Trail spur to vista, Doug reported that David Birdsall walked the trail and confirmed that it was on the property. Ruth Drachman has authorized the addition to the trail but we still need to confirm with Peter and Michael Drachman, her sons.

Doug agreed to contact them after he has refined the map to include the spur.

Regarding the access to the Town Lot behind the Transfer Station from the parking lot of the Old Creamery, Nelson Jaquay reported that he had had a conversation with Kevin Eaton and provided him with a map of the proposed walking easement. All agreed that we should eventually strive for a written agreement and that we might ask Gail Fallar to craft the wording. Nelson wondered if we were able to locate the corner of the Old Creamery lot, which would define the starting point of the easement. All agreed that we should arrange an onsite meeting in warmer weather.

Ongoing Business:

Doug suggested that he felt Green Up day this year should be structured like last year as a “Do It Yourself” operation, as it is probably too soon for a group meeting. Saturday May 1st is the official day but we will set up the self-serve station at the Old Creamery from Saturday April 24th to Saturday May 8th. Chuck agreed to contact the “Adopt a Road” participants from last year, and confirm that they were intending to cover the same road sections as last year. Those commitments will get added to the map first. Doug will email Kate Alberghini, State wide Green Up coordinator, with Tinmouth details.

All agreed that the number of Amphibian Crossing Signs from last year should be sufficient for this year. Doug will contact Jeff, Nelson and Chuck for sign placement ahead of the first warm, rainy night. Signs will be stored away on or around July 4th.

Regarding parking at the Drachman Trail, Doug felt that we should get several loads of “A” stone at the Crow Hill Road shoulder and signage that would warn hikers not to try to drive into the trail head location. Signage at the trail head indicates that the trail should not be used between snow melt and June 1st.

Next interim meeting set for April 19, 2021 at 7:30 PM

Next regular meeting set for May 17, 2021 at 7:30 PM

~ Nature Notes ~

Wood frogs began singing on March 18, followed the next night by a chorus of peepers! Daffodils, Crocuses, Snow Drops, Colt’s Foot, and Pussy Willows are happy Spring is here. Thunder and lightening on the 26th.

Lawns and fields are turning green, maple sugar makers are busy (season is quite late this year), geese are nesting, robins and woodchucks have been spotted, and thankfully there haven’t been too many power outages given the high winds that just keep screaming up and down the valley and sound like a train on the mountain tops. Oh, and it was 70 degrees on the 19th!

And Oh, Mother Nature played an April Fool’s joke sending snow, wind and cold!!

Planning Commission ~ No Meeting in February

VTF&W Suggests Removing Bird Feeders by April 1

MONTPELIER, Vt. – The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says warm spring weather and melting snows will cause bears to come out of their winter dens in search of food. The department recommends taking down bird feeders by April 1 to avoid attracting bears.

“We are already receiving our first bear reports, and the warmer temperatures predicted now will stimulate more bears to emerge from their dens to seek any food sources they can smell,” said Forrest Hammond, Vermont’s bear biologist.

“Bears are very fond of suet and bird seed, especially black oil sunflower seed, which they can smell from a long distance. Bringing feeders in at night doesn’t work, because bears will still feed on seed that is spilled on the ground.”

Bird feeders are just one of the things that can attract hungry bears. Other sources of food that bears find appealing are **pet food, barbecue grills, garbage, household trash containers, open dumpsters, campsites with accessible food, and food wastes.**

Purposely feeding a bear is not just bad for the bear -- it is dangerous for you, it causes problems for your neighbors and **it’s also illegal.**

Fish and Wildlife also offers the following tips to avoid bear problems:

- Keep chickens and honeybees secure within an [electric fence](#) or other bear-proof enclosure.
- Never feed bears, deliberately or accidentally.
- Feed your pets indoors.
- If you [compost](#) learn to do it without causing odors that attract wildlife.
- Store trash in a secure place. Trash cans alone are not enough.
- If bears are entering your dumpster, request a bear-proof one from your waste hauler.

“We are asking anyone who has a problem with a bear to report the incident in a form that we have on our website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) under [Living with Black Bears](#),” said Hammond. “There is a section in the form where you can ask us to call you to provide advice.”

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Officers Appointed by Select Board – 3/23/2021

Board of Adjustment

Robert Lloyd (2024)
Robert Noble (2024)
Grant Reynolds (2024)

Planning Commission

Andy Gilmore (2024)
Pat Psholka (2024)
Rainbow Squier (2024)

911 Coordinator

Gail Fallar

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

Robert Lloyd, Commissioner
Michael Fallar, Alternate

RRPC Regional Transportation Council

Grant Reynolds Michael Fannin, *alternate*

Solid Waste Alliance Communities

Chris Martone Wheaton Squier, *Alternate*

Pound Keeper

Glenn D. Merrill

Fence Viewers

Caleb Scott Ralph Lewis
Glenn D. Merrill Grant Reynolds
Michael Fallar

Tree Warden

David Birdsall Wheaton Squier, *Deputy*

Green-Up Day Committee

Doug Fontein
Ed Hasenohr
Nelson Jaquay

Housing Rehab Loan Review Committee

Select Board

Old Creamery Committee

Grant Reynolds, Chair Michael Fallar
Doug Fontein Stan Wilbur
Vito Macaluso

Animal Control Officer

David Birdsall

Emergency Management

Michael Fannin, Director
Ray Pratt, Coordinator (*appointed by Director*)

Community Center Board

Cathy Reynolds

Town Huggers

Hollis Squier
Patti (Cow Patti) Macaluso

Weighers of Coal

Michael Fannin Cathy Reynolds

Inspector of Lumber & Shingles

Doug Fontein Michael Fallar

Energy Committee

Ray Pratt Cathy Reynolds
Todd Dennis

Tree Policy Committee

Frank Sears Sherry Johnson
Eric Buffum Gail Fallar
David Birdsall Wheaton Squier

Conservation Commission

Doug Fontein, (2025)

Safety & Wellness Committee

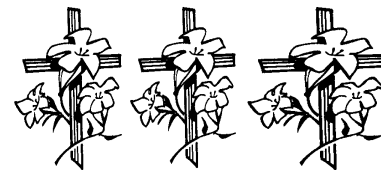
Ronnie Crossman Gail Fallar
Chris Martone Ray Pratt, Chair
Frank Sears

Tinmouth Website Committee

Nancy Gucker Birdsall Todd Dennis
Sherry Johnson Cathy Reynolds

**Solid Waste & Recycling
Committee**

Jonathan Czar Gail Fallar
Helen Mango Chris Martone
Wheaton Squier, Chair



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Would you like to place an ad in the back of the Directory? Yes No

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