

# TALES OF TINMOUTH

May 2021  
Vol. 35 Number 5

Tinmouth  
Vermont

**Editors' Notes:** *As Grampa John used to say, "The hurrier I go, the behinder I get!"*

The deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> 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*

## ~ Annual Tinmouth Plant Sale returned Pandemic Style in April & May ~



And was a HUGE success! Thank you to everyone who dug, potted, watered, donated plants, bought plants, and helped in any way. Your assistance and support is greatly appreciated.

A special thank you to the Squier Family Farm for hosting it again this year. Over \$11,000 was raised to support the Tinmouth Continuing Education Fund!!

## ~ Tinmouth Green Up ~ 2021 ~

Thank you to the many volunteers who cleaned up many Tinmouth roads this spring. There are still a few sections that need attention. If you can help, please stop by the Town Office to pick up Green Up bags and mark the map. You can take the bags to the Transfer Station at no charge.

Thank you in advance for your efforts.

**The Town Office will be closed  
Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> and Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>  
in observance of Memorial Day.**

## ~ Vacancies ~

Due to the passing of Grant Reynolds, there are now vacancies on the Zoning Board of Adjustment, Planning Commission, Old Creamery Committee, and the representative to the Rutland Regional Transportation Council.

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 any of these positions, please contact the town office. at 446-2498 or [tinmouthtown@vermontel.net](mailto:tinmouthtown@vermontel.net)

## ~ Letter to the Editor ~

As the world emerges from a global pandemic, which has changed many facets of our lives, we enter a time to embrace new possibilities. One of the possibilities is to join together as a town and beyond to strengthen the foundation of our values on the path towards a more perfect union. Inspired by the work occurring on a town, city and statewide level from Mendon to Rutland City to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and the Vermont Council on Rural Development; Nancy Birdsall and I have come up with a Draft Statement of Values for Tinmouth:

*"The Town of Tinmouth upholds a culture of inclusion, and welcomes all persons; regardless of race, color, religion, political affiliation, ancestry, national origin, income, wealth, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, marital status, familial status, disability, gender identity, and gender expression; and will protect these classes to the fullest extent of the law.*

*As a town we commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community and formally condemn discrimination in all of its forms.*

*The Town of Tinmouth has been and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions."*

This statement is a draft which we want the community to weigh in on; by providing input on the wording of the statement and discussing how we as a community can create opportunities to allow everyone to feel more included in our town both before and after the final statement is adopted. This draft statement is intended to promote conversation/discussion on Front Porch Forum and among individuals/groups in town.

We look forward to your input.

***Todd Dennis and Nancy Birdsall***

## ~ Dog Licenses Were Due April 1<sup>st</sup> ~

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.

~ May 2021 Calendar of Events ~

<b>Green Up ~ Tinmouth Style</b>	<b>Saturday April 24-Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>All Tinmouth roads</b>
<b>Chicken Parm Take-Out</b>	<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> 4:30-6:00</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Fire Department</b>	<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> 7:00</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
<b>Select Board</b>	<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
<b>Conservation Commission</b>	<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Postponed until June 21<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Planning Commission</b>	<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Meeting in May</b>
<b>Tales of Tinmouth Deadline</b>	<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Don't Miss It!</b>
<b>Select Board</b>	<b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> 7:00</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
<b>Town Office CLOSED</b>	<b>Saturday May 29<sup>th</sup> and Monday May 30<sup>th</sup> – for Memorial Day</b>	

~ June 2021 Calendar of Events ~

<b>Fire Department</b>	<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:00</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
<b>Select Board</b>	<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> 7:00</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
<b>Planning Commission</b>	<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
<b>Tales of Tinmouth Deadline</b>	<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Don't Miss It!</b>
<b>Conservation Commission</b>	<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> 7:30</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
<b>Select Board</b>	<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 7:00</b>	<b>Virtual</b>

*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.

~ 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), **was due May 17<sup>th</sup>** (due date got extended)/ This is required even if you do not have to file or pay state income taxes. *You can file it late, please do that if you missed the deadline.*

~ Nature Notes (mid-May) ~

**Bears** are out and about. Many sightings have already been reported. They are in the center of town, at the transfer station, crawling into pick-up trucks to pull out a bag and drag it off.

**Dandelions** are in full bloom, apple blossoms are everywhere, lilacs are filling the air with their wonderful fragrance, wood chucks and rabbits are over-running gardens and hiding under decks,

**Rain, cold**, more rain, more cold – 3 & ¾ inches of rain on April 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>! Trees are leafing out soooo slowly, or so it seems. Lawns are growing, geese have been seen with goslings, black flies are here.

*Please Recycle or Pass Along Tales!*

~ Community News ~

*Get Well Wishes* are sent to **Carol Bohlin, Cathy Ricketts, Shannon Squier, John Squier, Jennifer Collins Hill, and Terry Williams.**

*Heartfelt Sympathies* are sent to family and friends of **Ed Gilmore, Sr.**, to **Terry Bitler** and family for the recent loss of her Mom, and to family and friends of **Grant Reynolds** – Tinmouth's Historian, he will be missed.

*Welcome* to Tinmouth's newest arrivals, **Felix Pffiefer-Leeds**, born March 21, son of **Robbie and Nikki Pffiefer-Leeds**, he joins big brother **Ryder**.

And to **Stella Staples**, daughter of **Ryan Staples and Belinda Gagne**. Proud grandparents are **Steve and Nancy Staples** and **Norman Gagne**. Congratulations and best wishes to all!

~ Non-Traditional Scholarships ~

**Bob Emerick** would like to remind seniors at Mill River Union High School, that he and his brother Jack, are sponsors of four non-traditional scholarships.

If you are planning on taking a gap year or attending a trade school, please see the Mill River UHS guidance counselor for details and an application.



May 1, 2021  
To the Tinmouth Community,

It's hard to believe May has arrived. There are six weeks of school remaining before summer break.

Covid restrictions have been relaxed at Tinmouth Mountain School. After spring break (April 12<sup>th</sup> through the April 16<sup>th</sup>), staff members were no longer required to screen students before entering classrooms each morning. We continue to follow the Agency of Education guidance by wearing masks and maintaining social distancing throughout the remainder of the school year. TMS has been fortunate to date that precautions have successfully avoided the need to quarantine class cohorts.

We are accepting registrations for our fall pre-K program. Registration packets were available starting April 1<sup>st</sup>. Registrations are accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Up until May 15<sup>th</sup>, priority is given to Tinmouth residents and to students currently enrolled in the pre-K program. After May 15<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Summer Camp will be held at Clarendon Elementary from June 28<sup>th</sup> through July 30<sup>th</sup>. Registration is currently open. Contact [tinsley@millriverschools.org](mailto:tinsley@millriverschools.org) for further information and a link to online registration.

Thank you as always, for your ongoing support!

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

**Celebrating 21 Years!** Serving the Community with Excellence and Compassion Since 2000

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TINMOUTH CHURCH

~ Tinmouth Community Church ~

May - the month of nature's rebirth in all her verdant glory. It comes around every year as a kind of birthday; and we do celebrate it! Nature's birthday is not the only one in May. Perhaps some of you reading this reflection were also born in May, like I was.

There are all kinds of births, even rebirths in our lives, the dearest to us being the birth of a child. Births are underway all around us in nests and dens, in hives and hideaways, in hospitals and homes, begetting the wonder of life. Then there are those extraordinary rebirths of the human soul that are also underway, not without considerable labor in most cases.

In the New Testament book of John, a "teacher of the Law" (Nicodemus), comes to the teacher of the Spirit (Jesus) with an unarticulated dissatisfaction in his soul. The spiritual master picks up on this desire for something more and addresses the heart of the matter: "No one can live the fulness of life without being reborn of the Spirit of Love," that is, the love which is of God. Jesus' response is an unpacked commentary about our natural self-centeredness and reinforcing socialization, which encase the greatness of our human potential, particularly, our capacity to love generously and without partiality. Jesus goes on to say that it is the unceasing work of the Spirit of God to bring about this rebirth/reorientation in us. This newborn freedom looks like the fruits of love - joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control. It is a rebirth because it is such a radical transformation/enlightenment, nothing less than an old/false self, becoming a new/true self.

Such reborn, fully alive persons are indeed, the glory of God.

*Warmly to you,*  
**Pastor John**

Outdoor services will begin as soon as it is warm enough. Keep an eye on the **Front Porch Forum** for an announcement.

Pastor John can be reached by email at [hzfam@hotmail.com](mailto:hzfam@hotmail.com) or by phone at 802-417-1491 or 802- 282-7532.

Sunday Services online at [www.tinmouthchurch.org](http://www.tinmouthchurch.org)  
Evening Prayer, Tuesdays and Thursdays, on Tinmouth Community Church Facebook page

Rev. John Hardman-Zimmerman

~ **Meeting Highlights** ~

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

**Select Board ~ 4/8/21**

Present were Select Board members Cathy Reynolds, Frank Sears, and Meadow Squier; Planning Commission members Vito Macaluso, Kim Harbaugh, and Bob Lloyd; and Conservation Commission member Ed Hasenohr; as well as Steffanie Bourque - Rutland Regional Planning Commission (6:30-7:00), Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Sherry Johnson, David Birdsall-Tree Warden, Michael Fannin- EMD, Stan Wilbur – Public Works Project Manager (7:10), Paul Morris, and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant (SBA).

**Frank** called the meeting to order at 6:33, welcomed everyone, and noted that the first order of business was the presentation of the draft **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan by Steffanie**.

Steffanie explained that she facilitated the planning team, Michael Fannin, Frank Sears, Eric Buffum, Ray Pratt, Hollis Squier and Gail Fallar and thanked them for their hard work, to craft a local hazard mitigation plan that meets state and federal guidelines. She noted that the plan is focused on hazard mitigation – not emergency response – action for long term investment to make the town more resilient. It is not legally binding, but is a tool to identify natural hazards (not manmade or invasive), rank them, and create strategies to address those of highest risk. She walked the group through the plans, briefly describing the sections, and the “reasonable and practical mitigation action plans”. Next step is to distribute for the 14 day public comment period. She emailed it to neighboring towns and natural resource conservation districts. After the comment period, the planning team will review and address any comments; submit it to the State for preliminary review; submit to the Select Board for adoption; and then submit to FEMA for final approval. It has to be reviewed, updated and re-adopted every five years. Frank thanked Steffanie for her guidance.

**Minutes:** 3/23/2021 – Board voted to approve after changing the sentence sequence regarding a summer celebration and honoring Ramsey and Patty Yoder.

**Public Works Facilities Update ~**

**Morton Buildings** ~ Stan noted he had hoped to be scheduling a meeting with the Board and Morton, but instead reported that Morton had sent an email advising that they were putting many projects/proposals on hold. He received an email that their local sales representative will be available for the SB meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss situation further.

Stan also advised that given the recent rise in construction costs, the town may not get what it needs for the designated \$500,000 – SB should consider options, maybe go back to voters for more money.

Eric advised Dan Allard will still take the fill material

at no charge, even though they have completed the project they requested it for. Eric asked Stan about pulling out stumps near the town garage, Stan advised he will check the state permit.

**State Storm Water Permit** ~ Stan reported that Gregg from Otter Creek Engineering advised the state stormwater permit would arrive in a week.

**Horse Shoe Tournament** – Before exiting the meeting, Stan volunteered to organize one for the community celebration this summer.

**Highway ~**

**Eric** reported mud is drying up, grading gravel roads has started, and that the new truck has been built and is in Texas waiting for a driver to bring it east. He noted he had sent the SB photos of a problem area on Mountain View Road that needed to be repaired before paving, after brief discussion Board authorized road crew to fix it.

**Driveway Permit** for Zac Blanchard at 455 Route 140 – after brief discussion - no culvert needed, Board voted to approve and authorize Frank to sign for the Board. Eric inquired about replacing the culvert, as it is in dis-repair. Cathy noted that the property owner is responsible for the initial installation and then the town is responsible for its replacement – and that Eric does not need to ask Board permission for that.

**Grant for Roller** – Eric advised that the town has been approved for a \$6,000 grant to purchase/build a roller for the back of the grader. It was applied for last year. Town match is \$1,200.

**Grader cylinder rebuild** – Eric noted he has the parts, but needs the grader right now, and thinks the cylinders will work until they can be re-built.

**Trailer for Chloride Tank** – Eric advised that a new trailer is not needed, but a trailer would keep the chloride out of the more expensive truck. Board discussed where money would come from, (current budget), how to find a good used one, etc. Board voted to authorize Eric to buy a good quality used trailer for \$3,500 or less.

**Glenn Merrill** – Eric reported Glenn has agreed to work for the town for the summer. He will cover for Eric while he’s on vacation in June and cover for Ron if/when he goes to fight forest fires later in the summer.

**Site Work vs Road Work** – Board inquired about the plan – Eric advised the road crew will get the site work for the town garage done in July. Cathy inquired about a berm for the Eatons – but as no decision has been made regarding the Eatons concern with the location of the new town garage, Stan offered to talk with them and bring SB options.

**Highway Vacation** – Cathy encouraged Eric and Ron to coordinate vacations and substitutes.

**Paving and Structure Grants** - 2020 applications were put on hold by the state, town can use them again this year. Board requested **draft paving bid request** for their April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting – to have bids due on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Highway What If Plan** – Eric advised it was done. Board inquired about the maps provided at the last meeting, they need a bit of attention. Cathy volunteered to help create written descriptions of the plowing routes.

**Emerald Ash Tree Borer** – David advised has not had a chance to meet with Eric, is re-thinking when to flag trees that need removal until closer to the event. He reminded the Board that EAB is coming, it's not a question of if, but when. Board discussed options, will use executive session in May to consider hiring cutters as town employees. Board discussed where to cut first – highly traveled roads (Route 140/East Road?) there are lots of ash trees on Gulf Road, need to talk with landowners – cut and drop them into the woods? A plan is needed (Bakersfield has very detailed one), and education of town folks is also needed - Board asked Dave to write a monthly article for *Tales of Tinmouth* and Front Porch Forum, regarding EAB, he agreed. Eric noted that the road crew could work on cutting those that can fall into the woods in the winter in between snow storms.

#### **Covid/LEOP ~**

Michael reported there were no requests for assistance. Governor Scott is working on a re-opening plan. He urged caution to continue. Board discussed re-opening the community bake oven and old creamery, and the community center. The Community Center Board is going to meet soon, Cathy will report back.

He is working on the annual LEOP – Local Emergency Operations Plan.

#### **Deputy Animal Control Officer Appointment ~**

Board discussed: the need for a constable, that the Rutland County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement, the need for someone to round up unlicensed dogs, appreciation for Paul's service as first constable, and the need for a job description for animal control officers. In the end, the SB decided to have the RCSD serve as constable. Board voted to appoint Paul Morris as Deputy Animal Control Officer.

#### **Financial ~**

**Financial Report** – Board voted to accept as presented.

**Warrants Reviewed ~ Payroll Warrants** #37 dated 3/15/21 for \$1,507.47; #38 dated 3/22/21 for \$2,692.90; #39 dated 3/29/21 for \$1,660.79; and #40 dated 4/8/21 for \$4,864.28; and **Accounts Payable Warrants** #18 dated 3/15/21 for \$12,274.53; #19 dated 3/29/21 for \$5,284.08; and #20 dated 4/8/21 for \$8,834.76 were reviewed and approved.

**Audit** ~ No update from Sullivan and Powers.

**Capital Building or Highway Budget** – Board discussed whether to transfer money from the Capital Building Fund to cover expenditures spent on the town garage/salt/sand shed project development from the highway budget – decided to leave as it is for now – highway budget has been able to cover the costs.

**Budget Surplus** – Board discussed the need for a

process to determine if a budget surplus is highway or general.

**Bond Bank** – Gail noted that the Bond Bank advised that the audit for FY20 will be acceptable for the winter pool application and also should be for the bond anticipation note as well. The Bank of Orwell has agreed to provide the bond anticipation note, pending the town applying to the bond bank.

#### **Old Business ~**

**Trash at 605 Mountain View** – Gail found the ticket book, but advised they are no longer valid (were used when Ray LaMoria was 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable running radar years ago). 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, writing a ticket a week if need be.

#### **New Business ~**

**Auditor Appointment** – Board voted to appoint Ann Czar as Auditor until next town meeting due to Nancy Birdsall's resignation.

**Political Sign Policy** – Cathy explained the need for a policy arose just prior to town meeting this spring when political signs appeared on town property. She wrote a draft, members discussed, will review again on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Delegation of Select Board Tasks** – Cathy suggested SB members volunteer for a particular task or area of operation (highway, transfer station, town office) to research issues and bring back to the full Board. Would it make the Board more efficient? No action taken.

**Free WiFi Hot Spot** – Cathy explained a non-profit is willing to provide equipment (an antennae) to enable a free public WiFi Hot Spot near the town office. It will run on the town office's wifi, with a firewall to keep the town office secure. No cost to the town. Cathy noted that once the town office has a generator switch, in the case of an emergency, the Hot Spot would/could provide service. After brief discussion, Board voted to proceed with the WiFi Hot Spot proposal.

**School Garden** – Cathy circulated an email from Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker, school principal, regarding a Butterfly/Pollinator Garden on the south side of the school with a couple of benches. Board felt it was a great idea, go for it, formal approval was not needed.

#### **Members Concerns –**

Cathy asked the Board to consider re-opening the pizza oven with outdoor guidelines – she will take the lead with the bake oven gang, would like to create opportunities for people to gather again. Board was okay with going forward. When the Community Center re-opens Cathy would like to celebrate, will ask for volunteers on Front Porch Forum to organize – consider a parade, games, similar to community fun days in the past.

Cathy wondered how to get more feedback for the Board. Meadow has ideas, will work on them for the next meeting.

**Email for Town Officers** - Gail advised she is working on arranging an email system to provide town officers with a town email address so they don't have to use their personal email account as it becomes subject to public records law.

**Select Board Workshop** – Board discussed VLCT's answers to questions posed at the last SB meeting. The Select Board does have the authority to require elected officials to sign the addendum to comply with the Personnel Policy in return for benefits, but there was no answer about restricting leave during an emergency.

**Select Board ~ 4/20/21 ~**

Present were members Meadow Squier, Frank Sears, and Cathy Reynolds, as well as Stan Wilbur – Public Works Project Manager, Rick Symrski-Morton Buildings until 7:20, Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Michael Fannin-Emergency Management Director, Michael Fallar, Tami Carboni, and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant (SBA).

**Public Works Facilities – Morton Buildings**

Rick from Morton Buildings, reported he had *good news, news, and a plan*. The *good news* was that senior leadership at Morton determined that the company would be available to construct the town garage – the project could move forward. The *news* is that because the company is behind schedule, construction will be delayed until fall/winter. And the *plan* is that due to the current market and price of materials, it is not conducive to construction, so Morton is planning on scaling back the project to 3 bays with an option to expand in the future. It's easier to get bigger than smaller. He noted that materials have doubled in price and that it is the worst time to start a project and that some materials are not available at the moment. They were using the 60' x 80' from the NBF plan. He suggested using the \$5,000 retainer to develop a plan for the biggest 3 bay they can with room to expand at a later date. They are constrained by the budget of \$500,000, getting the most for the money and trying to find middle ground. He was looking to the Select Board to see if they indeed wanted to proceed.

Board expressed concern with being able to return to voters now or in the future for expansion, the original bond was for both a town garage and salt/sand shed. They wanted to know what the price of the original proposal might be to be able to work down from there – original NBF 4 bay plan was estimated at \$675,000 and scaled down to 3 bays for the vote, estimated then at \$475,000. Prices have skyrocketed since then. SB wants to be able to determine size, knows the building is needed, wants the biggest bang for their buck.

SB asked Stan about the state permit – Stan advised that the state storm water permit is being designed for a bigger building (60' x 80') so smaller will not be a problem,

Rick suggested designing for a 3 bay with an option to

up-grade. SB asked if there were options regarding roofing, siding, window, etc. that would affect the total cost. Rick noted the inside is pretty much industrial, but the exterior can impact the bottom line.

Cathy again inquired about meeting the new Vermont energy codes, suggested asking for a waiver for the requirement for windows as the building is not occupied. Stan will check with Vermont Dept. of Fire and Safety. Rick noted utility grade windows satisfies the requirements. Cathy asked if the road crew valued windows/glass in the doors or work space, Eric advised one row of windows in the doors were fine.

Stan inquired about soils information – Rick responded they would need a geo-tach report with bearing capacity. An engineer is needed, Rick suggested a NH firm that Morton is comfortable with, Stan will check with local engineers as well to see if any do the soil analysis needed.

Stan asked if Morton needed anything formal from the Board in order to proceed. Rick requested approval to move ahead.

Frank, as Chair, speaking for all, advised that the town is anxious and motivated to proceed and would like to build at the earliest time possible.

Rick advised they would proceed with a 3-bay building, with a 4<sup>th</sup> bay as an option, for the best value they can. Morton is looking forward to making it happen. Rick advised he could foresee several back and forth exchanges between the SB and Morton to get the right design. Rick advised that Morton could have something within a week. Board set a special meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> with Morton for first review and decided to hold special meetings for this project. Rick will get plans to members electronically and with paper before the meeting in order to allow them time to review well before hand.

**7:20 ~ Regular Agenda** - Board reviewed agenda, Frank advised that he would like to follow Robert's Rules regarding adding items to the agenda that have not been warned – add them to the agenda for the next meeting for discussion. Meadow requested (as a Member's Concern) adding a trash issue on Gulf Road. Tami advised that she had contacted the Rutland County Sheriff's Department who instructed the Cottons (who reside at 72 Snow Mtn. Lane and whose mail was found inside a bag) to pick it up and dispose of it properly, but no action had yet occurred. Frank as Health Officer will take a look, and RCSD will be called to follow up.

**Public Works Facilities~**

Stan advised he had spoken with David and Carleen Eaton regarding their concerns with the town garage, they do not want a berm, would be happier with a row of cedar trees. Board discussed location, how many would be needed, who would water the newly planted trees to ensure they survive. Stan will get estimates before Board decides how to proceed.

**State Storm Water Permit** ~ Stan advised that OCE was only charging ½ of the cost for the work needed for the state's permit, still not received.

**Highway** ~

Eric reported they have been grading gravel roads, washing trucks, clearing trees from the area for the new town garage. He inquired about how area could be cleared, can they go to the west to the boundary line? He has checked with Kevin Eaton and he's fine with it. Board agreed to the removal of any necessary trees, grapevines, brush and make it maintainable.

**Paving Bid Request**- Board reviewed draft, then voted to go out to bid for paving with bids due on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**New Log Pile** – Eric estimated there is about 10 cords of wood in the pile from the trees removed mentioned above. He suggested holding a lottery instead of asking for bids. Much discussion, pros and cons of a lottery/raffle – who would sell the tickets, cost per ticket, how to involve the community, where the funds go, turn around time. In the end, the Board decided to go out to bid for this pile and consider a raffle/lottery for the next one – there will be one more pile. Cathy volunteered to post on Front Porch Forum/Tales. Bids will be due by the Select Board meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> and wood needs to be removed by June 20<sup>th</sup>. Money from this sale and the earlier one all go into the Capital Building Fund.

**Personnel Policy Review** – Reviewed newest proposed changes – will try to complete work on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Emerald Ash Borer** – David Birdsall, Tree Warden, advised he had applied for an EAB Kit and it is on its way. Will provide educational information and guidance.

**Covid 19 – Emergency Management** –

**LEMP – Local Emergency Management Plan** – Michael Fannin provided draft, noting that the template had changed and it was difficult to transfer data from last year to this year. After review, Board voted to approve with amendments/additions.

**Public WiFi at Town Office – Re-visited** ~

Michael Fannin inquired about the benefits? Cathy noted it would provide access to folks who do not have wifi or Internet or cell service. It's a service, and she noted that if the town office gets a transfer switch for a generator it will create a zone for emergencies. Michael expressed concern for the electromagnetic radiation emitted and wondered if anyone in the area had been contacted, noting everyone should be. Cathy explained the area being covered, extends from the town office towards the church and school on the town green, but does not go that far. The fire department, old fire house and old creamery do not have residents, and does not cover the Wilburs or Miners. The Strattons live to the south of the intended area. Michael noted he has been expressing concern and working on this issue for a long time – persuaded the school to change its wifi policy a few years ago, noted that hard wired access is better for health and

safety reasons, and again noted folks living near should be consulted. After discussion, Board voted to approve the installation of the wifi antenna pending consultation with the Strattons. If they have concerns, the Board will re-consider at its May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Meadow volunteered to contact the Strattons. The antenna is about 10 feet high, on the NW corner of the town office with a firewall to protect town office data.

Frank thanked Michael for bringing this to the SB's attention – the need to notify the public about discussions on the agenda and concern for health and safety.

**Financial** ~

**Warrants Reviewed** ~ Payroll Warrants #41 dated 4/12/21 for \$1,412.21, and #42 dated 4/19/21 for \$2,608.52; and Accounts Payable Warrant #21 dated 4/12/21 for \$7,045.13 were reviewed and approved.

**Old Business** ~

**Trash at 605 Mountain View** – Frank, as Health Officer, reported that the Hills were cleaning up their property, had hired a dumpster, but still have many tires that need disposal. Board declined request for town help with another dumpster.

**Political Sign Policy** - After brief discussion, Board voted to approve.

**New Business** ~

**Possible Federal Covid \$\$'s** - The Town has received notice of possible federal funding, ranging from \$50,000 to \$120,00 – depending on the source – for information only – rules and parameters to be determined.

**Bake Oven Re-Opening Guidance** - After brief discussion, Board voted to approve guidance as drafted to re-open the community bake oven. Will follow state guidelines for outdoor events.

**Community Center Board** - Cathy, as the SB representative, advised that the CC Board is working on guidance for the community center re-opening with limits, and more after school is out for the summer. She will report at the next SB meeting and perhaps suggest other town buildings re-open.

**Members Concerns** – Cathy noted the cost of providing email addresses for the SB was too expensive (\$6 per person per month); requested her proposal regarding SB operations - that SB members take on certain tasks, be added to the agenda for the 13<sup>th</sup>; and requested that issues dealt with at one meeting that needed further work/research were placed on the next month's agenda.

**Conservation Commission ~ 4/19/21**

*No minutes available – was a working meeting prepping for Green-Up activities.*

**Community Center Board ~ 4/15/21** – *Minutes not yet available*

**Community Center Board ~ 4/29/21** – *Minutes not yet available*

**Planning Commission ~ No Meeting in April or May**



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**References available.**

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And it is open all the time! It’s quite full at the moment, a good time to stop for a visit and take a good book home!



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Can anyone identify where this is? Is it in Tinmouth or Clarendon, perhaps – 100 years ago?



David Potter was going through some old family photos and found it.

We've done it for a year,  
we need to keep doing it  
for a few more months!  
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*Thank you!!*

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