

TALES OF TINMOUTH

June 2021
Vol. 35 Number 6

Tinmouth
Vermont

Editors' Notes: *Summer ~ time to go swimming, read a book, take a nap in the hammock, take a kid out for an ice cream cone!!*

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

~ **Tinmouth Day Celebration – July 17th** ~

By Cathy Reynolds

Let's bring back Tinmouth Days. Looking for help planning a Tinmouth Community Day to be held July 17 in the center of town. Thinking about a parade, pies, horseshoes (Stan has already volunteered to organize a tournament) and any other events that folks would be willing to help plan.

Give me a call or email-looking for a small committee to help plan. Contact Cathy Reynolds at 446-2928 or cathyreynolds802@gmail.com

But save the date July 17! Events may be determined by ability to gather according to Covid rules in place at the time. But hoping to be restriction free by this date.

~ **Tinmouth Community Fund
Scholarship and Grant Awards** ~

The Tinmouth Scholarship Awards, Tinmouth Community Fund Grants - Round 2, and Small Business Grant Awards Round 2 will be presented at a ceremony on **Tuesday June 15 at 7 pm**. At the Community Center, an in-person gathering!! All are welcome! Come learn more about our scholars and community and business grant award winners. Cookies and lemonade to celebrate!

For more information contact Cathy Reynolds at 446-2928 or cathyreynolds802@gmail.com

~ **Vacancies** ~

There are vacancies on the Zoning Board of Adjustment, Planning Commission, Old Creamery Committee and Representative to the Rutland Regional Transportation Council.

If you feel you have the qualifications for any of these positions, or would like to know more about them, please contact the town office at 446-2498 or tinmouthtown@vermontel.net

Emerald Ash Borer Update

David Birdsall • Tree Warden, Tinmouth

The Emerald Ash Borer, EAB, has been identified in West Rutland which makes the Northern end of Tinmouth in the "High Risk Area". If anyone is unsure of identifying the Ash tree that is at risk, I've put purple flags on Ash trees around the Tinmouth Town Office building and at the beginning of the Ridge Trail that starts in the back corner of the School Ball Field.

Once the EAB is on an Ash tree, it is very likely going to be completely dead with 2-3 years. Because of this and the characteristics of the Ash tree, they become very dangerous to take down as they will fall apart and very likely harm the sawyer. In a healthy forest 65% of the accidents that happen are caused by dead wood falling from above! Please seek advice from a professional before attempting to take down a dead or dying Ash tree!

Because of this bugs imminent arrival, the Town of Tinmouth and I are considering plans to deal with these trees before they fall on their own, onto our roads.

Not all Ash trees in the woods should be taken down, we hope they will keep producing seeds to keep this amazing tree on the landscape. White Ash is the first tree to lose its leaves in the Fall and last to get them back in the Spring, yet it grows the fastest of many trees. We hope that it doesn't go the way of the American Chestnut tree.

There are options for protecting yard Ash trees from the EAB with insecticide treatments. This should be done by a certified Pesticide Applicator. PLEASE avoid "Homeowner products" as they will do great harm to pollinators and other beneficial organisms and are proven to not be effective. For more information on EAB and how to treat yard trees, visit the website <http://www.vtinvasives.org>

Thanks!

David Birdsall

Tinmouth Tree Warden

Please Recycle or Pass Along Tales!

~ June 2021 Calendar of Events ~

Fire Department	Thursday	3rd	7:00	Virtual
Select Board	Thursday	10th	7:00	Virtual
TCF Awards Ceremony	Tuesday	15th	7:00	Community Center
Planning Commission	Thursday	17th	7:00	Virtual
Conservation Commission	Monday	28th	7:30	Virtual?
Tales of Tinmouth Deadline	Sunday	20th		Don't Miss It!
Select Board	Tuesday	22nd	7:00	Virtual?

~ July 2021 Calendar of Events ~

Fire Department	Thursday	1st	7:00	Virtual?
Town Office	Monday	5th	CLOSED to celebrate the 4th of July	
Select Board	Thursday	8th	7:00	Town Office?
Planning Commission	Thursday	15th	7:00	Town Office
Tales of Tinmouth Deadline	Monday	20th		Don't Miss It!
Select Board	Tuesday	28th	7:00	Town Office

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

~ Sunday Church Service ~ Will begin in-person worship on June 6th ~

~ Volleyball and Pickle ball will be starting soon! ~

~ Community News ~

Get Well Wishes are sent to **Jacque Lockwood**.

Heartfelt Sympathies are sent to **Alice Hoisington** and family and friends, for the loss of her brother, **Clarence “Chipper” Haynes** (from Middletown Springs).

Congratulations to newlyweds **Al Woods and Monique Kingston** who were married on May 15th.
Best Wishes for many happy years.

Congratulations to Mill River Union High School graduates **Cameron Eaton, Eli Nemeth, and Riley Usher** and Home Schooler **Cameron Smith**. Best Wishes for your next adventure.

Congratulations to TES 6th grade graduate **Liam Ricketts** – good luck in junior high! ~

~ Kudos and Appreciations ~

Many, many thanks to the diggers and potters and haulers and sign makers and waterers who made this year's Plant Sale the most successful ever!

Thanks also to the Squier Family Farm for creating such a nice space for the sale. And above all, thanks to Cathy Reynolds for her incredible contribution of time, organization, energy and vision.

Helen Mango

~ Tinmouth Cemetery Association ~

The *Tinmouth Cemetery Association* wishes to extend a huge thank you to **Carolyn Burden** for her many, many years of service as a Trustee. It was much appreciated!

Speaking of which, the Cemetery Association is in need a new Trustee, you need own a lot to qualify.

Please contact Glenn Merrill, President at 446-2782, if you are interested. One meeting per year.

~ Celebration of Life for Bob and Cynthia Johnson ~
By Sherry Johnson • White Birch, Tinmouth

A Celebration of Life for **Bob and Cynthia Johnson** (long time summer residents of Tinmouth Pond) will be held on June 19th. There will be a simple graveside service followed by a reception at the lake house.

The graveside service will be at the Tinmouth Cemetery on Route 140, **June 19th at 11:00 am** and The Rev. John Hardman-Zimmerman from Tinmouth's Community Church will officiate.

Please feel free to join us.

*“Martha,
Swearing is the easy thing to do, NOT swearing is the hard thing to do”*

~ Aunt Tukie

Obituary
Grant Cedric Reynolds – 1935-2021

TINMOUTH, VT -- Grant Cedric Reynolds, 85, died peacefully with family by his side at The Meadows in Rutland, VT on May 17, 2021. Born in Bellows Falls, Vermont on November 5, 1935, he considered himself a 42-year “temporary resident” of the Washington, DC area, before moving back and settling with his wife, Joanne Trogler Reynolds in Tinmouth in 2003. A devoted Vermonter, he was proud to be descended from Benjamin Reynolds, one of the original settlers of Vermont, in Pownal in 1761.

He graduated from Montpelier High School, Class of 1953, and went on to major in history at Bates College where he received High Honors and graduated magna cum laude in 1957 as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He met his wife Jo, of Fayetteville, Pennsylvania, in the debating team rooms at Bates College in 1954 during Jo’s freshman fall, and they married in Fayetteville on December 27, 1958. True to form, while waiting for the late afternoon service he led a number of friends on a tour of the nearby Gettysburg battlefield.

Following college, Grant attended Columbia Law School, graduated in 1960 and then moved with Jo to the Washington, DC area.

Grant had a long and distinguished career serving as a civilian lawyer in the Secretary of the Air Force’s General Counsel’s Office from 1960 to 1991. During that time he worked in International Law, was the Air Force Fiscal Counsel, advised on installations and construction matters, and was the first environmental lawyer in the Department of Defense. He retired as Assistant General Counsel for Installations and Environmental Law in 1991.

After retiring, he continued to work in environmental consulting for the Air Force and for SAIC Corporation. He also taught Environmental Politics at Bates College and Environmental Law in the Ph.D. program in the Environmental Science and Public Policy Department at George Mason University.

Grant enjoyed a lifelong love affair with skiing, cars and car racing. He first strapped on skis at the age of 3 and hit the slopes every season until he was 80. He was proud to be a member of the original ski team at Bates College. A compulsive collector of historic skis, from a 1918 pair to the beginning of the shaped ski era in the 1990’s, he donated most of his large collection to the Vermont Ski Museum in Stowe, Vt, where they formed an exhibit in 2017-2018.

A master car mechanic, Grant spent many years in the “pits” helping others with their race cars, and in 1994 finally fulfilled his dream of racing after attending racing

drivers school. He raced Formula Vees with the Sports Car Club of America and several vintage racing groups until an eye problem forced his retirement from the track in 2002. He was elected to the Sports Car Club of America Hall of Fame for his efforts in creating the Club’s Solo II, or autocross, program.

In Tinmouth, he played an active role in the community where he was a member of the Planning Commission and the School Board, serving as chair in 2015-16. He was the Tinmouth member of the Study Committee organizing the merger of the school districts in the former Rutland South Supervisory Union and drafted the Articles of Agreement that formed the merger. He was particularly proud of the section he drafted that required a unanimous vote of the Board and a vote of the town to shut down a school, thus ensuring the continued survival of the beloved town elementary school, where he and Jo ran a cross-country ski program for the kids.

Returning to his lifetime love of history, he edited and wrote articles for The Tinmouth Channel, a quarterly journal of the Tinmouth Historical and Genealogical Society. A trustee of the Vermont Historical Society, he also wrote for Vermont History, Journal of the Vermont Historical Society, and On the Towpath, a magazine published by the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Association. Grant wrote a “Short History of Tinmouth, Vermont” primarily for children at the Tinmouth School, and also published six historical novels about a family living on the English-Scots Border in the late 1500’s.

Grant is survived by his wife Jo and their three children and four grandchildren: Cathy Reynolds and her husband Doug Fontein, of Tinmouth and their daughters, Amelia and Izzy Fontein; Carin Reynolds and her husband Peter Kermond of Lebanon, NH and Carin’s daughters, Eloise and Cate Pierson; and Colin Reynolds and his wife Trisha Reynolds of Del Norte, Colorado, and Underwood, Washington. Grant is also survived by his brother, Edwin Reynolds of Brownsville, Vermont, and his sister Betti Jaquay and her husband Nelson of Tinmouth.

A family man, historian, attorney, thinker, mentor, and foundation of the Tinmouth Community, Grant will be missed by many, but most of all by his wife of 62 years and his family.

At Grant’s request, there will be no calling hours or funeral service, rather a jolly party will be held at the convenience of family and friends sometime later this summer.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to the Tinmouth Creamery Restoration Fund, with checks made payable to the “Town of Tinmouth” and sent to 515 North End Road, Tinmouth, VT 05773



June 1, 2021

To The Tinmouth Community,

There are two weeks of school remaining as of today. Friday, June 11th at noon is the final dismissal for the 2020-2021 school year.

The students celebrated the end of the school year with various activities including a 5th/6th grade kayaking trip on the Tinmouth Channel. We anticipate that this trip will be a new tradition for our graduating classes. It is a significant and enduring connection to the Tinmouth natural environment.

We have one graduate from sixth grade this year, Liam Ricketts (pictured below). Liam chose to quietly celebrate moving onto middle school. His family asked for immediate family only to be included in a class luncheon. Each grade will congratulate Liam and there will be a short school-wide ceremony. We will return to the traditional graduation celebrations next year.

Liam has been at Tinmouth Mountain School since pre-school. He is a natural leader who thinks on his feet. He has been a role model to younger students by courageously standing up for what is right and always willing to lend a hand. He has guided younger students with humor and compassion. He will be greatly missed by both staff and students. We know he will succeed at whatever he chooses to do throughout middle school, high school, and in life in general.



The 2020-2021 school year has been challenging due in part to the pandemic restrictions. In spite of these challenges, the teachers at Tinmouth are celebrating the growth made academically by students, particularly in reading. The tireless tutoring by teachers in afterschool homework club is part of the reason for this success. We will continue homework club in the upcoming year. But please note, it is the teacher's skill and dedication to their students that makes homework club a success.

We look forward to the fall where our partnership with parents and community members can be reestablished. The school support demonstrated by family and community reflects in the engagement of students in school. This has been a life-changer for many students.

The Tinmouth staff and I wish our parents and community members a summer of joyful adventures and repose.

Sincerely,
Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker
Principal
Tinmouth Mountain School

~ **Non-Traditional Scholarships** ~

Bob Emerick would like to remind seniors at Mill River Union High School, that he and his brother Jack, are sponsors for 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. \$250 each.

~ **Letter to the Editor** ~

To Ye Olde Editor,

In response to the letter from Nancy and Todd last month, I provide this link, give it a listen, might help.

Watch "Tom MacDonald - "Snowflakes"" on YouTube
<https://youtu.be/fCMwlorNEZk>

Michael Fallar

Bob Emerick's Grampa used to say, "Any bird can build a nest, but not every one can lay an egg."



TINMOUTH CHURCH

~ Tinmouth Community Church ~

We tend to think of Easter as a one-day event. But as the Church celebrates it, Easter is a season extending another seven weeks beyond Easter day. Actually, every Sunday throughout the year is considered a "Little Easter". Easter is always in season, not as a holiday to be celebrate, but as a potent reminder that in the midst of an every day possibility of dying - and its certain eventuality- we are upheld in a divine love in which we share an eternal life.

A month of days has passed since our last edition of Tales of Tinmouth, during which time our community has experienced the passing of Grant Reynolds and perhaps other cherished loved ones I do not know about. In caring friendship, we extend our heartfelt prayers and ready hands as consolations in this time of mourning.

In the midst of death, life goes on, not only as grateful legacy, precious memory and blessed posterity, but as ongoing life for our deceased loved ones in that spiritual realm we call heaven. For them, the Easter reassurance of resurrection has come to pass.

As grant's wife, Jo, said to me so profoundly, "All is well." Indeed. Upheld in a divine love in which we share an eternal life, "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. For there is a force of Love moving through the universe that holds us fast and will never let us go" (St. Julian of Norwich).

Peace, then, be with us.

*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 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

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! It's quite full at the moment, a good time to stop for a visit and take a good book home!

~ Meeting Highlights ~

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

Select Board ~ 5/13/21

Present were members Cathy Reynolds, Meadow Squier, and Frank Sears, as well as Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Josh Carvajal-State Stream Alteration Permit Specialist, Michael Fallar, Doug Inkle, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Todd Dennis, Cat Yoder - Delinquent Tax Collector, Stan Wilbur – Public Works Project Manager, & Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant (SBA).

~ **Public Works Facilities Update** ~

Stan noted that there was concern with drainage on the west side of the proposed garage, OCE engineer advised that perforated drainage had been provided in the design to handle it, trying to keep the amount of impervious surface down. The soils engineer was unable to attend meeting to stake out and dig test pit due to a medical emergency, he will be returning the week of the 25th. After discussion, Board decided to wait for soils report before considering options for the location of the garage.

Stan also reported that Pratico Landscaping provided an estimate regarding planting cedar trees as a sight barrier on the east side of the property. Pratico recommended using pine – deer will eat the cedar, and fencing around the trees – 100' could cost several thousand dollars, no determination on how much would be needed. He has not had a chance to speak further with the Eatons, will do so before the next meeting.

Stan inquired about getting quotes for the water well, he will contact 3 well drillers, and not go out to bid. He will get them for the next Board meeting. There may be a waiting list.

If Morton has draft plans ready, meeting on the 25th will begin at 6:30.

~ **Highway** ~

Cathy advised that Doug Inkle had contacted her regarding the road runoff problem on Wright's Road that was brought to the Board's attention last year. She reached out to Eric, who reached out to Josh. Josh advised that his role is dealing with stream alterations, not ditching or road run-off, so he reached out to Jim Ryan who also works for the state with the MRGP – helping towns comply with stormwater permit requirements. Jim advised that the work done on Wright's Road last year complies with the permit and meets the new standards and Best Management Practices, ditches are stone lined, vegetative areas have been seeded, and the road is crowned. There is a slight berm on the shoulder which Eric noted he will take care of when he grades there next.

Doug explained that he was only inquiring about the status of a solution to the pollution created during storm events. His memo was intended to reflect respect for the town and state, recognizing that this is only one problem

of many that has to be dealt with. He noted that the problem still existed, and suggested that a cross culvert might solve the problem and that the owners were willing to have the culvert drain into their field. The Wright/Inkley family has tried to protect the stream for 80 years, including yearly testing.

Josh noted that his advice is only what the town is required to do, they can add another culvert, but it is not required.

Eric advised that it would be expensive, there is ledge to blast or it would require adding a couple of feet of gravel for a couple hundred feet both ways to raise the road to cover it. Board discussed need to look at total work required and other sections of roads that need to be addressed for the MRGP permit, and how to budget for it.

Board asked if Doug could wait a year. Doug advised they could, they respect the process, are not upset or want it to go faster. But they do want to see the storm water go across the road before it gets to the stream to prevent turbidity that will run into the Tinmouth Channel.

Board asked Eric for an estimate, he advised he will get a quote from a contractor. Frank thanked Josh and Doug for their input.

Cathy noted that folks needed to communicate road problems to Eric, not Board members.

Eric noted that grading is ongoing. Not a lot is going on, the new trailer for the chloride tank is working well, (cost \$2,000 and new tires), and he really appreciates being able to get it.

Roller grant – Eric has asked for an extension to complete the project due to short notice of the grant award and the need to resource materials. Waiting to hear.

Fuel Bid – Board voted to approve draft fuel bid request, due on June 10, 2021.

Tax Sales - Cat Yoder-DTC, advised that three properties were two or more years behind in taxes and asked the Board's permission to proceed to tax sale – Carol Baker, Larry and Cris Carabeau (3 properties) and Fairfield Whiting Jr. After brief discussion, Board voted to grant permission to the DTC to proceed to tax sale for these three properties. Board discussed other delinquent tax payers on the report – some have agreements and are paying monthly, some are only one year in arrears – some are un-inhabitable old mobile homes – some will be going to the Board of Tax Abatement with requests. As Prouty is now out of bankruptcy court, Cat may come back next month with further request if no re-payment agreement is made.

~ Paving Bids -	Cost per ton	Shouldering
Fuller Sand & Gravel	\$64.00	\$1
Pike Industries	\$70.00	\$11,610
Wilk Paving	\$64.95	\$3,900

Board voted to accept Fuller Sand & Gravel's bid.

~ Wood Pile Bids –

Dave Fox bid \$267.77; Rick Fallar bid \$351.00; Michael Fallar bid \$400.00; and **Roscoe Jones bid \$651.75**. Board voted to accept Roscoe Jones' bid.

~ Financial ~

Financial Report – Board voted to accept. Board discussed the need to review the budget for unspent budget lines before the end of the year – June 30.

Warrants Reviewed ~ Payroll Warrants #43 dated 4/22/21 for \$1,412.21; #44 dated 5/3/21 for \$3,691.82; and #45 dated 5/10/21 for \$1,412.21; and **Accounts Payable Warrants** #22 dated 4/22/21 for \$4,620.0; and #23 dated 5/3/21 for \$12,082.75 were reviewed and approved.

Professional Audit ~ Just received, will be on agenda for the 25th.

Transfer to Capital Building Fund – Board reminded treasurer to transfer extra state highway aide and wood piles sales to the Capital Building Fund. Duly noted.

Board of Tax Abatement (BOA) – There have been several requests for abatement of penalty and interest, Board set June 8th for hearing. BOA is the BCA (Select Board, Justices of the Peace and Clerk), Listers and Treasurer.

~ Old Business ~

Trash at 605 Mountain View – Frank reported that Ron Hill will be getting another dumpster to continue the clean-up.

Trash at 72 Snow Mtn Lane – Frank reported it is contained in the dwelling, road has been cleaned up.

Personnel Policy Review – Postponed to May 25th meeting.

Personnel Review – Board discussed having one member sit down with employees to discuss goals, improvements, concerns, etc. noting it is awkward for only 3 employees. No decision.

'What If Plan' – Gail advised that work is continuing on it, but it really should be a COOP – Continuation of Operations Plan – and include all departments – highway, transfer station, town office, and administration. The auditors have recommended creating an accounting policy and procedure manual – work has begun on that.

~ New Business ~

Select Board Operations – Cathy suggested each Board member be a liaison with either the highway, town office or transfer station – be a go-to person for staff – Frank wondered if this would be helpful or interference? Discussion, no decision. Need guidelines to clarify who gets called – ie road issue call the town garage.

Listers Request for Extension for Grand List - Board voted to approve Listers request for 30 day extension to complete work on 2021 grand list.

Grant Reynolds Resignations – Board accepted with sorrow and appreciation for all Grant's service to Tinmouth. Vacancy notices will be posted for planning

commission, zoning board of adjustment, old creamery committee, and representative to the Rutland Regional Transportation Council.

Michael Fallar, Planning Commission Chair, advised that the PC will meet soon to make a recommendation to the SB regarding filling Grant's vacancy. He noted that Grant was a very valued member of the PC, will be greatly missed. He advised that with Covid winding down, the PC will begin meeting again, need to re-organize and hold a hearing for Kim Young's subdivision.

~ **Members Concerns** ~

Cathy noted that the Town of Danby was discussing an ATV Ordinance that would allow ATV's on some dirt roads – wondered what will happen when those riders reach Tinmouth roads – there are several that cross the town lines. Board needs to be aware of this proposal.

Mail/Correspondence – Audit from Sullivan & Powers – already forwarded to members; webinar regarding covid money, Cathy will attend.

Select Board ~ 5/25/21 ~

Present were members Meadow Squier, Cathy Reynolds, and Frank Sears, as well as Eric Buffum – Road Comm., Stan Wilbur – Public Works Project Manager, Doug Inkley, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Vito Macaluso, Sandy Goyette, Ronnie Crossman, Michael Fallar, and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant (SBA).

Frank welcomed everyone, dedicated this meeting to Grant Reynolds, good friend and family member, and asked for a moment of silence in his memory.

Public Works Facilities Update ~

Stan reported that he met with Dave and Carleen Eaton regarding screening the new town garage – 270 feet may be needed, Norway Pine was suggested instead of cedar (deer won't eat the pine), planting in the drip line. Board discussed cost, noted that there was no money in the budget for it, having the town dig the holes and plant, setting an amount (\$3,000) that would be spent for the project. Stan will continue discussion and getting prices for just the trees.

Stan noted he has not had time to contact well drillers, will get quotes for the 10th.

Eric reported that the soil test pits were dug on May 25th and revealed ledge and a highwater table. The water is running along the top of the ledge in some places and into the pond that was built years ago. The Soils Engineer will work with Craig Jewett of Otter Creek Engineering to determine plan of action.

Morton Buildings will have an estimate for the Board meeting on the 10th.

State Storm Water Permit has been issued. Board voted to authorize Gail to sign the new Notice of Intent.

~ **Highway** ~

Eric reported no major issues, still grading gravel roads. Dales Aines inquired about cutting trees in the

town's right of way on McCoy Road, will clean up, Eric supports the project. Board noted that landowners own the trees. Eric is still waiting for an estimate from Dan Allard regarding the culvert on Wright's Road near the Inkley property – if there is ledge in the road it will need to be blasted – road will not be raised. Doug inquired what raising the road would entail – Eric advised that the culvert (18") needed to have 12-18" of cover – and that he's not going to do it that way.

Matt Patry – North East Road, requested via email, that the town re-route water that is exiting a culvert during storm events onto his meadow. It would require a 300' ditch. SBA advised against it – town equipment can work in the town's right of way, not on private property. Frank advised he had already set up an appointment to take a look. Eric advised it would not be an easy. Board will discuss at its next meeting.

Better Roads grant application for Potter's Brook was not approved. Town still has a VTRANS application from 2020, Eric advised if no grant is received, no project.

Roller Grant – Eric advised that the deadline for work has been extended until October 1st – but the roller price has increased due to steel prices skyrocketing.

Grader – re-build of hydraulic cylinders are a work in progress.

New Tandem Truck – is at Viking – they are waiting for delivery of the body – will do the other work while waiting.

Navistar Voucher regarding the 2013 Class Action – SBA noted the company is still advising to wait.

~ **Emerald Ash Borer** – Board discussed the need for a plan, education, hiring a special crew, suggested the Tree Policy Committee work on a plan, ask for other volunteers – Michael Fallar offered to serve on it. Sherry, as Committee Chair, was consulted and agreed to the request.

~ **2021 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan** – Board voted to adopt/approve final version, and authorized Frank to sign and send to FEMA for approval.

~ **Financial** ~

Warrants Reviewed ~ Payroll Warrants #46 dated 5/17/21 for \$2,573.82; and #47 dated 5/24/21 for \$1,412.21; and **Accounts Payable Warrant** #24 dated 5/15/21 for \$34,894.67 were reviewed and approved.

Audit ~ Board asked town auditors for comments – Sandy and Vito – Sandy noted that budgeting (or not budgeting as recommended) was an issue raised by Sullivan Powers & Co., as well as the need for a procedure and accounting manual, which would be very helpful to new employees and for the Board to better understand how everything works. Board discussed how to include delinquent taxes paid for prior years if they were not budgeted – may need to conduct a study to see how much is collected versus carried forward – asked the town auditors to think about it. Not including the revenue

would raise taxes to cover that amount – current practice is budget an amount that seems like it will be collected in the new fiscal year.

Frank noted the Treasurer’s response letter indicated that the accounting policy and procedure manual would be done by June 30, offered to help.

Gail noted there are several recommendations in the audit, fraud and risk assessment for instance, and several policies, needs further review and consideration. Board will review and asked for progress report on June 10th.

Bond Application – SBA noted it is due in December for the winter round – need to get started.

Budget Surplus – Need to review financial reports on the 10th for possible end of year decisions.

Tax Sales ~ Owners are taking steps to avoid going to tax sale.

~ **Old Business** ~

Personnel Policy Review – Board discussed Gail’s comments, lots of discussion, will review final time on June 10th.

Select Board Work Delegation – Meadow suggested members take on a specific issue/duty, follow-up and then report back to the Board. Cathy noted it was helpful when she was working on the Personnel Policy to discuss proposed changes with Eric and Ronnie. Frank noted more discussion was needed.

COOP – Continuity of Operations Plan – Gail noted she will be advertising for an assistant soon.

~ **New Business** ~

Health Officer – Meadow volunteered, after brief discussion, Board voted to appoint her as H.O.

~ **Members Concerns** –

* Need to post vacancies to fill all the positions that Grant Reynolds held. Frank thanked Grant for all his good works and extended sympathy to the family.

* Virtual vs. In-person meeting on July 8th? Discussed trying to do both – Sherry has looked into it, pretty complicated. Meadow offered to research.

* Old Fire House re-opening policy – According to most recent Covid guidelines?

Planning Commission ~ No Meeting in May

Tinmouth Community Fund ~ 5/19/21

With thanks to Helen Mango, Sec.

Present: Committee members Jan Krantz (Chair), Nikki Pfeiffer, Todd Dennis, Melody Squier, Lisa Patry and Helen Mango (Secretary). Cathy Reynolds (Treasurer) joined as she was able. Also in attendance: Gail Fallar.

Treasurer’s report - (Note that VCF = Vermont Community Fund.)

VCF Reserve Fund as of 3/31/21 \$ 61,793

VCF Endowed Fund as of 3/31/21 \$148,643

VCF Continuing Education Fund as of 3/31/21 \$321,961

Tinmouth Checkbooks:

Continuing Education Fund \$9,793

(Includes Lloyd Scholarship \$1,123)

TCF General Fund \$5,986 Plant Sale income \$12,000

The TCF has not paid out for the following grants for 2020 (\$2,845) which includes: Butterfly Garden, Stop the Bleed, Green-up, OFH Concerts, Ping Pong, Contra Dancing and advertising. All postponed due to Covid.

Funds needed for Round 2 Community Grants, K-12 Scholarships and Continuing Education, 2021:

\$5,000 Round 2 Community Grants and Small Business Grants; \$1,500 K-12 Scholarships; \$15,000 Continuing Education grants.

The TCF will need to withdraw from the VCF fund to cover K-12 and Community and Small Business Grants: \$6,500.

Jan stated her appreciation of Cathy and the other Plant Sale volunteers.

Jan discussed items from the Treasurer’s report: There are enough funds available to cover the \$15,000 allocated for Continuing Education grants without needed to withdraw from the VCF.

To cover the K-12 Scholarships and Small Business grants, the TCF will need to withdraw approximately \$3500 from the VCF.

Gail asked for clarification regarding which fund is used for expenses such as envelopes and paper for solicitations. Board voted that expenses should be billed to the appropriate fund (e.g. envelopes and paper used to solicit funds for the Continuing Education fund should be billed to the Continuing Education checking account).

Board voted that the TCF allocate up to \$20,000 for Continuing Education grants.

Melody reported on the K-12 Scholarship applications. There are 7 applications, for a total request of \$1,432. They are for horseback riding lessons, soccer camp, general summer camp, and theater camp. Since \$1500 had been allocated, Board voted to that all proposals be funded.

The “Round Two” Community Grants and Small Business grants were discussed. The TCF had allocated \$5,000 for these.

Community Grant applicants (all requested \$500 unless otherwise noted):

- Butterfly garden bench at the Tinmouth Mountain School
- Little Free Library at the Tinmouth Mountain School
- Be Seen in Tinmouth (\$50)
- Community Center sign to honor Patty and Ramsey Yoder
- Fire Department tables (\$450)
- Bike rack at the Tinmouth Snack Bar
- Painting lessons at the Tinmouth Mountain School

- Punch cards and garbage bags for needy residents (\$440)
- Imagination Library (books for kids)

Total requested: \$,3940

Small Business grant applicants:

- Phil's Mill (for website development): \$500
- Tinnmouth Snack Bar: \$500 for electrical upgrade (this application had initially come in Round One but had disappeared into cyberspace) and \$500 for equipment

Total requested for Continuing Education and Small Business grants: \$5,440. Board voted to add \$440 to the allocation for these grants to cover the Round Two applications. Board voted that the TCF draw down \$4,000 from the Reserve Fund at the VCF to cover grants.

Jan thanked Todd for doing such an excellent job upgrading and maintaining the TCF website. There was discussion about automatically sending reminders to applicants (both returning applicants as well as new applicants), encouraging them to apply for scholarships. Todd will look into scheduling automatic reminders through Gmail.

Lisa suggested that the essay prompt on the Continuing Education form be expanded to allow returning applicants to write something different each time they apply for scholarship funds. Also, people applying for non-college scholarship funds need a different prompt. Cathy will bring this up with the committee that judges the scholarship applications.

Cathy requested that the TCF set a date for the public celebration of grant and scholarship awardees. June 15 and June 16 were both recommended. Cathy will email recipients to see which date will work better for most.

Community Center Board ~ 4/15/21 –

With thanks to Asha Carroll, Sec.

Members present: Asha Carroll, Ann Czar, and Cathy Reynolds; others present: Chuck Bronk, Gail Fallar (Treasurer), Michael Fannin (Emergency Management Director), and Rainbow Squier (Community Center Manager)

Reorganization: Ann nominated and elected Chair, Asha nominated and elected Secretary.

Discussion of Partial Reopening of Tinnmouth Community Center In Response to the State's Vermont Forward Reopening Plan:

Discussed potential uses and current needs. Chuck Bronk, a member of Tinnmouth's Pickleball League, made a request to use the TCC for 4-8 participant pickleball games. Pre-pandemic, the League regularly met to play at the TCC and has since been using alternative locations to varying degrees of success.

Chuck and Michael discussed pickleball league needs, physical proximity, ventilation, scheduling, and vaccination status of current pickleball participants.

Members and Michael reviewed current state guidelines; Cathy cited "Roadmap to Reopening" (vermont.gov/forward) and made note of the 50% vaccination milestone in Rutland County. Cathy suggested using the state's indoor gathering guidelines.

Cathy shared PE guidelines provided by TMS Principal Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker. Members discussed coordination with TMS to communicate community center use from town and outside groups, pertaining to ventilation and bathroom cleaning. It was noted that TMS has full use of the building on weekdays until 5:30, at which point it typically becomes available to the community for use on evenings and weekends, excepting school events, which take priority. Use is coordinated with Rainbow.

Rainbow raised a question on liability and the responsibility of the board versus the individual user's decision to use the space. Cathy noted that the TCC has operated on trust for 21 years. Members asked Chuck to keep a log of players and players' vaccination status. Chuck agreed and suggested the method of keeping a log on a whiteboard and taking a picture at each meeting.

Members agreed on the need to act in accordance with state indoor gathering requirements, keep a log, require masking, and consult with Maureen through the end of the school year. Cathy proposed that Rainbow share the indoor gathering guidelines (with overlay of TMS's guidelines) with each group at the time of booking. Michael noted that weddings and larger events might be considered on a separate basis.

Ann offered to support Rainbow in case-by-case decision-making if needed.

Cathy stated discussion recap: Members agreed on a partial reopening for sporting events of under 24 people, following the state's universal guidance with no events of more than 24 people and no events with food from the date of this meeting until school ends. She suggested meeting prior to the end of school (beginning of June) to prepare summer dates. She suggested submitting the new TCC guidelines to Front Porch Forum and *Tales of Tinnmouth*.

Rainbow suggested adding cleaning guidelines. Cathy agreed to write a document for opening guidance to include cleaning guidance from Maureen via email to be documented and printed.

Board voted to meet in two weeks, following Maureen's guidance, to partially reopen the TCC in accordance with state guidelines and an overlay of TMS rules, to be in effect from now thru end of school, with a full reopening for summer 2022, following any additional guidelines, to follow; at that time, the TCC Board would prepare a draft policy to share with the school, then have a meeting to adopt it and proceed with Pickleball and other community events on a case-by-case basis, considering further discussion with Rainbow and Michael as needed.

Renaming the Community Center:

Cathy made a request to rename the TCC in honor of Patty and Ramsey Yoder, who were pivotal in the creation of the TCC 20 years ago. She proposed the name "The Patty and Ramsey Yoder Community Center" and members discussed. Cathy spoke on sign-making logistics and noted that this decision will be made by the Select Board, but she brought it to the TCC Board as a courtesy.

"Tinmouth Community Day" Celebration:

Cathy made a request to bring back "Tinmouth Community Day" to celebrate "the end of Covid-19" restrictions. Members reminisced of Tinmouth Community Days past, including games, activities, a 5K walk/run/bike/ride, parade, dunking booth, and a horseshoe tournament to be organized by Stan Wilbur. The event would be held mostly outside in July, with the option of the TCC in case of rain. The event would include a sign-hanging ceremony and acknowledgement of the Yoders' contributions to the community.

Michael spoke in support, depending on the status of Covid-19 at that time and made the suggestion to proceed with planning the event and to cancel in the event of unsafe conditions. Cathy proposed a date of Saturday, July 17th with a noon start time. Michael suggested BYO food.

Michael suggested putting a call for activities on Front Porch Forum. Cathy confirmed that she is forming an informal committee to divide tasks.

Members confirmed that according to state guidance, as of July 4th there will be no existing state restrictions anticipated.

Community Center Board ~ 4/29/21

With thanks to Asha Carroll, Sec.

Members present: Asha Carroll, Ann Czar, and Cathy Reynolds; Others present: Nancy Birdsall Frank Sears, and Rainbow Squier (Community Center Manager)

Continued Discussion of Partial Reopening of Tinmouth Community Center In Response to the State's Vermont Forward Reopening Plan:

Reviewed and discussed draft for limited reopening of the TCC with a promise to review the guidelines for additional activities after school is out. Members agreed on no food, signing, or dancing.

Board approved the draft and agreed to meet June 1 to discuss summer reopening.

Community Center Board ~ 6/1/21

With thanks to Asha Carroll, Sec.

Members present: Asha Carroll, Ann Czar, and Cathy Reynolds Others present: Gail Fallar, Hollis Squier, Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker (TMS Principal)

Volleyball Scheduling and TCC Use Update

Hollis made a request to resume Volleyball on Wednesday nights, with Pickleball (possibly) now meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He noted that he will be requesting that all Volleyball players be vaccinated, and that they may wear masks as they wish. Cathy referenced current state guidelines and confirmed that Hollis's request is in accordance with state guidelines for vaccinated Vermonters. Members agreed that while a sports group may require this of their players, there is no clear way of knowing a player's vaccine status – players would be using the "honor system." Members agreed that the TCC would not restrict access due to vaccine status, but would operate in accordance with current state guidelines as guidelines continue to be updated. Cathy noted that at the state's current vaccination rate (77%), we could soon assume that the state will meet the Governor's 80% goal for reopening and removal of restrictions. Cathy confirmed that Wednesday nights are available and that the only two groups with current requests are Volleyball and Pickleball. Cathy suggested that groups may have to be flexible with timing in the case that more requests are received. Maureen confirmed that once school ends, there will be no evening use by TMS through the summer.

Members agreed for TCC to follow state guidelines for use, however, an individual organizer may make stricter rules or safety requirements for their group, if that's what they choose for comfort.

Roof Replacement and Water Leak Problem

Members confirmed that, per communication from MRUUSD, there is a water leakage at TMS that needs to be addressed, and there will be a summer roofing project at TMS. Both projects affect the entire building, including TCC. Confirmed that MRUUSD Ops will be shutting water off on June 15th, including no hand washing or bathroom access. Confirmed that the summer roofing project will run June 15 through August or September. Members noted that noise and/or safety could be an issue. Cathy noted TCC Board's limitations for requesting timing of construction to better accommodate community activities and/or potential disruption.

Maureen answered member questions about the water leak and confirmed that the location of the leak was not obvious. Hollis cited a possible location of the leak based on previous knowledge. Gail spoke to communication that she had had with Gary facilitating the locating of the water leak location. Maureen confirmed that digging would begin on 6/17.

Cathy confirmed that she would like to continue with the June 15th TCF awards event as planned, citing the TCC as a better meeting space than the Old Firehouse, which is typically used, due to the ability to better physically distance in the larger TCC space.

Maureen confirmed dates of the last day of school for students (June 11th) and for teachers (June 15th) and

agreed to request that Gary not turn water off until June 16th in order to accommodate the 6/15 TCF awards event. Cathy confirmed that the Town of Tinmouth Celebration will be on July 17th.

Cathy suggested the need for at least one helper to assist with turning water off and on as needed in order to accommodate events like the one on 7/17. Gail and Hollis confirmed valve location. Cathy asked Maureen to communicate with Gary Marcy (MRUUSD Ops. Dir.) that the Town will turn water on and off as needed throughout the summer. Maureen agreed to do so and to communicate this with Dave Younce (MRUSSD Superintendent) as well, in order for events to continue to function in a hygienic fashion.

Cathy noted that by the date of the first event on 6/15 it is possible that the state will have lifted all restrictions. Cathy agreed to communicate to Pickleball group about water shutoff.

Cathy proposed that the Town turn water on and off as needed for events, and that sports groups make other plans for cleanliness and water in order to avoid confusion and/or extra training work.

Ann noted the need for Gary to communicate water shutoff and roof construction dates with Rainbow so she could notify those planning to use the TCC to current status throughout the summer as both projects progress, including notifying building users when water would be off and on again as needed.

Additional Discussion on Volleyball Scheduling and TCC Use Update

Asha proposed that hand sanitizer be provided at the TCC in lieu of (and/or in addition to) running water for hand washing purposes. Gail offered to donate large quantities of hand sanitizer for this purpose.

Hollis asked whether Volleyball could resume this week. Cathy advised Hollis to coordinate with Rainbow. Maureen confirmed that TMS uses TCC for an afterschool program until 5:30. Members discussed janitorial logistics and advised that each group will have a new responsibility to sweep the floor before they play, due to the current janitor schedule. Maureen agreed to discuss the new schedule and morning cleaning responsibilities with janitorial staff following evening TCC activities.

Cathy reminded members of the TCC online calendar; once restrictions end, all events will be posted on the online calendar by Rainbow, per usual practice. Cathy referenced TMS cleaning protocol to wipe down high-touch surfaces before leaving, including doorknobs and confirmed Maureen's suggestion for janitorial staff to clean bathrooms in the morning before TMS students arrive. Maureen confirmed that cleaning materials and hand sanitizer are available for TCC group use. Members confirmed that groups must keep a log of all participants

for contact tracing purposes until state restrictions are lifted. Cathy confirmed that members will update Rainbow on this meeting's discussion.

Cathy asked Maureen whether workers for the roof and water leak projects will work on weekends. Hollis asked whether community members and/or TCC groups could be informed of roof and water leak project working dates in order to coordinate community use. Maureen confirmed that the roof contract is for all four schools and that she will post information in the TMS newsletter. Maureen confirmed further details of the roof project and suggested that the community be careful when parking in the area due to potential nails or debris. Cathy suggested use of a giant magnet commonly used to pick up nails at construction sites.

Board voted to accept the discussed updates for TCC use.

Gail confirmed that TCC groups should contact Rainbow via her provided phone number on the operator's manual contact sheet.

Other Business

Cathy has an update on the TCC sign; she has applied for a TCF grant, and will order the new sign if grant application is approved. She confirmed that Denise will be working with the sign maker to create a new, beautiful sign.

Cathy made a call for volunteers to help lead efforts on Tinmouth Community Day and noted that Rainbow has agreed to coordinate a cornhole tournament and that Stan Wilbur has agreed to coordinate a horseshoe tournament. Cathy is looking for a parade organizer and someone to coordinate food.

Members agreed that Maureen will be the best conduit to Gary Marcy in regards to roof and water leak projects. Maureen agreed to report back with an update from Gary. Maureen confirmed that TMS will have no use of building during summer, as summer camps will be taking place at Wallingford and/or Clarendon Elementary schools. Maureen noted that TCC groups and participants might expect a dumpster to accompany the roof project.

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Turtles on the Roadway Need Your Help

Drivers should be alert, especially near ponds and wetlands

MONTPELIER, Vt –Vermont’s turtles will be on the move this spring, and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is asking for the public’s help in keeping them safe. Female turtles will be looking for places to deposit their eggs, sometimes choosing to lay them along the shoulders of roads, which can bring them into the path of motor vehicles.

“Turtles often move across roads as they search for a nest site,” said Luke Groff, biologist for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. “They are usually slow-moving animals, so they have a tough time making it safely across the road. Turtles grow slowly and live a long time, so losing a mature breeding female may be a huge loss to the turtle population.”

Turtle nesting activity peaks between late May and early June, and drivers are urged to keep an eye out for turtles on the road – especially when driving near ponds and wetlands.

“When you spot a turtle in the road, you may be able to help it across. First be sure you’re in a safe spot to stop and get out of your car, as human safety comes first,” said Groff. “If you’re going to move a turtle off the road, always move it in the direction it was traveling. They know where they’re going.”

Most turtles can be picked up and carried across the road. However, if the turtle has no colorful lines, spots, or other markings, it is probably a snapping turtle, so people should stay back to avoid being bitten. Snapping turtles’ necks are long. Instead of picking up the snapper, try pushing the turtle across the road with a shovel or pulling it across the road on a car floor mat.



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