

TALES OF TINMOUTH

November 2021
Vol. 35 Number 11

Tinmouth
Vermont

Editors' Notes ~ Please pause and give Thanks for family, friends, community, state and country

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.

Gail Fallar & Pat Psholka



~ Chicken and Biscuit Dinner ~

By Sherry Johnson

The **Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department Game Supper** is once again sponsoring a **Drive-Thru Chicken and Biscuit Dinner** with famous Tinmouth pies for dessert. Additionally, we have TVFD Tee shirts available for \$20. This supper is the one and only fundraiser the Fire Department holds. The dinner will be held on **November 20th from 4-7pm**.

We would like to thank all the pie bakers and chicken and biscuit cooks that have volunteered. We can use more.

If you can cook or bake, please call me at 446-3307 or email me at vsjohnson@icloud.com. We will provide the pans needed and chicken.

On November 20th, from 4 pm-7 pm we will have chicken and biscuits, and pies, available for pickup at the Fire House. You will need to pre-order Chicken and Biscuits (9 inch pan serves 2-4 people) and 9" pies. There will be 4 categories of pie: apple, pumpkin, berry or "Surprise Me with something else". The Chicken pans are \$25 and the pies are \$20.

As of now there will be 50 pans of chicken and biscuits and 30 pies available for purchase, so sign up early.

To order food, you can complete our on-line form <https://tinyurl.com/cwzhmz6h> or call 446-3307.

Because of COVID-19 distancing requirements, we would need to spread out the arrivals. When you order, you will sign up for a pickup time. When you arrive at the Fire House, please stay in your car - you will pay for your order with cash (exact change would be great) or a check made out to the Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department, and then be given your order.

Thank you for supporting our Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department.

**2nd half property taxes are due on Monday,
November 15th.
Town Office will be open 8-12 and 1-5 that day.**

~ Thanksgiving Baskets ~

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

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

~ Holiday Greetings ~

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

Please send your wishes and/or names and a donation of any size in care of *ye olde Editor* by **November 20th**.

Thank you for your continued support for the **Roy & Anne Wilbur Fund!**



On November 6th, daylight savings time ends, please remember to set your clocks back one (1) hour. And this is the perfect time to make sure your smoke and CO detectors are working by testing them!!

You should also change the batteries in these safety detectors.



Help us help you. Please Clean Your Chimney.

Before it gets too cold, now is the time to get your chimney cleaned!! Remember a chimney fire can become a house fire in no time.

Thank you, TVFD



Tinmouth
Mountain School

November 1, 2021

To the Tinmouth Community,

It's hard to believe October has come and gone.

At the start of October, students began reading in literature circles and reading groups. These are small cohorts of students who work with a teacher on books that are challenging while learning and practicing their decoding and comprehension strategies. Time spent reading and direct instruction by a certified teacher are the most effective means to learn to read. Working collaboratively with parents and peers also instills a love of reading. Many thanks to parents, grandparents, and guardians who read at home nightly with students! It makes all the difference in the world for our beginning readers!

Four Winds has begun this month. This is an outdoor science based program run entirely by volunteers from our community. Our young scholars truly appreciate this program. It is quite the favorite in all grade levels. We deeply appreciate the commitment and dedication each of our volunteers demonstrate!

Student led conferences were scheduled for October 8th. Most took place the week before, during the evening hours that were convenient for working parents and guardians. During these conferences, students set goals in reading and mathematics and let parents know how they could help them to reach these goals.

The students celebrated Halloween with a parade to the Town Office and Wilbur's Home (next door to the school). Our fifth and sixth graders helped the younger children prepare and cook *Mozzarella Pumpkins*. These are mozzarella balls wrapped in dough, shaped into pumpkins, and baked - a healthy alternative to candy. Additionally, the Parent-Teachers Organization funded donuts and cider, which students enjoyed after the parade.

To date, we are one of the few schools that have not had to quarantine cohorts of children. We are thankful to parents and adults around us for their thoughtfulness in wearing masks in the building and keeping students home when they show any signs of illness no matter how minute a symptom.

Many thanks to our community for their ongoing support!

Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker
Principal
Tinmouth Mountain School



TINMOUTH
CHURCH

~ Tinmouth Community Church ~

November is the month of Thanksgiving. Is not every month, every day, a time for thanks-giving? It would be a great way to live year-round, wouldn't it! It seems though, that Thanksgiving is becoming an overlooked holiday and day set aside to get in touch with the goodness of life and be grateful.

Sue and I were in the Vermont Country Store in Weston this week. We noticed that there was a Halloween display with items for sale, and a Christmas display to entice us as well. We didn't see anything related to the Thanksgiving holiday. Telling? I guess there's not much money to be made off of Thanksgiving, off of gratitude. But, yes, it is a great way to live! Perhaps if we were living from gratitude, we would find many of the things for sale not comparing to the value of a thankful heart, and its satisfaction and joy, that can't be bought.

Looking around Tinmouth, at its beautiful landscape and many beautiful people, there is no shortage of goodness to be thankful for. And if it be that one of us is in short supply of some need, be it material or spiritual, there are neighbors and a community willing to help. For such a town as this, we are grateful. For this life with which we are gifted, we are thankful. And day after day the blessings keep coming, thanks be to God.

May your Thanksgiving be already underway, and never cease.

Rev. John Hardman-Zimmerman

(802) 282-7532 (cell, preferred)

(802) 884-8249 (parsonage)

hzfam@hotmail.com

We are now meeting in-person at 9am for Sunday morning worship service. Please wear a mask.

We continue to collect here at the church, clean and wearable winter clothing for The Open Door Mission in Rutland.

Wednesday evening Zoom gatherings continue at 7 pm. For a stimulating discussion and friendship, join in! The link is available from Pastor John. Just send him an email (hzfam@hotmail.com).

"When you have the choice to be right or to be kind, always pick kind"
-Dr. Wayne Dyer

*To the Community of Tinmouth
from the family of Nathan Ricketts*

There are no words that will ever show our gratitude to you all during this horrific time in our lives. The outpouring of love and support you have all shown proves these are where our roots will grow deeper. To the fire department and EMS crews and others that showed up on the morning of September 26th. You are brave, you are strong, and most of all you are now family. Your courage to keep composure knowing how hard this was for us is an understatement. We know for you all this event hit your hearts as much as it did ours and we could not have handled that morning without you there.

I want to touch base briefly on our own Big Nate. If you knew him, you loved him, and if you didn't, you knew the rubber he laid in his tracks that left imprints on so many. From his smirk, that we all knew he was up to no good, to his working hands that helped more than we will ever know. This man touched lives. He not only was a great husband, father, son, grandson, brother, brother-in-law, and uncle; He was family to all that knew him and would always do anything to help family.

For now, there is nothing but an empty hole in our hearts that will never be filled with the same kind of love Big Nate could give. We wish he could wrap his arms around Tara, Liam, Fiona and Nora just one more time. If only that wish could come true.

Tomorrow morning when you wake up, take a deep breath, be grateful for what you have and never ask for more than you need. Nate never asked for anything. Only gave all he could. So please keep your head high and talk about him with a smirk on your face as he is watching down on each and every one of us. Pray for his family. And laugh about the memories.

God bless each and every one of you.

~ Community News ~

Welcome to Tinmouth's newest arrival, **Ana Elizabeth Lynch**, who was born on October 4th, daughter of **Amber Stocker and James Lynch**. Proud Great-Grandma is **Dee Marro**. *Congratulations and Best Wishes.*

Heartfelt Sympathies are sent to family and friends of **Frances Bolster**.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to newlyweds **Evan Stone and Catherine Hannah**, who were married on October 22nd. May you have many years of happiness!

~ WiFi Hot Spot ~

There is now a WiFi Hot Spot next to the town office – FREE – look for 'Project Connect' on your device. It is unsecure, but available to anyone who wishes to use it. It beams toward the church and school, will also work in front of the town office.



*~ Library News ~
By Ruth Drachman, Librarian*

THE LIBRARY IS OPEN!

For now, we will be open on Thursdays from 2 until 5. WE WILL ALSO BE OPEN THE FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 9:30 until NOON. Come see us!

We have many new books for adults.

* **Marked Man** by Archer Mayor, the 32nd Joe Gunther adventure.

* **State of Terror** by Hillary Clinton and Louise Penny, this is an international thriller, a page turner.

* **The Last Bookshop in London**, by Madeline Martin, historical fiction, "a story of love, friendship and survival set against the backdrop of WW II -era London".

* **West With Giraffes** by Linda Rutledge, "An emotional rousing novel inspired by the incredible true story of two giraffes who made headlines and won the hearts of Depression-era America".

* **Castle Shade** by Laurie King, a new adventure of Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes involving a queen, a castle, and a dark threat.

The library is open!

~ Front Porch Forum ~

Connect with your Tinmouth Neighbors

Have you checked out Front Porch Forum yet? To sign up, go to <http://FrontPorchForum.com>. Or stop by the town office to sign up!! 200+ households have signed to date! Good way to discuss community issues, sell a canoe, give away a kitten, etc.. If you are a second home owner you can use your 911 address.

The *Tales of Tinmouth* is on the Tinmouth website (tinmouthvt.org). Look under "Info".

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

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

~ Budget Work ~

The Select Board and the MRUUSD School Board are working on budgets for the coming year. If you would like to have input, please attend one of their meetings in November or December. Or call a Board member – names and phone numbers available in the Tinmouth Operator's Manual annual update.

Basket Raffle

November 6th

Doors open at 11 am

(Drawing starts at 1)

**Danby - Mt. Tabor Fire
Department**

590 North Main Street, Danby

**Benefits Nathan Ricketts' (Big Nate) Family
Nate passed away unexpectedly on 9/26/21
leaving behind his wife and children. All money
raised will go directly to his family to help during
this difficult time.**



*If you'd like to donate a basket
or have any questions please
contact Gina Jones at
(802) 282-3825 or
Shauna Dotson at
(802) 683-5914*

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**ON VETERANS DAY
REMEMBER THIS**

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

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

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

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

It is the veteran, not the politician,
who has given us the right to vote.

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

Author Unknown

ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

**~ The Town of Tinmouth and the Tinmouth Pond
Milfoil Project Receives State Grant ~**

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Watershed Management Division Lakes & Ponds Program has awarded a \$4,402 grant to the Town of Tinmouth and the Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project (TPMP) for 2021. The grant money was used to help pay for two divers to suction harvest Eurasian watermilfoil during the summer months of 2021.

The main purpose of the TPMP is to control the spread of the Eurasian watermilfoil (this is an "aquatic invasive" plant that has invaded the pond first discovered 20 years ago) and to encourage the growth of native plants. Eurasian watermilfoil is a non-native aquatic plant that has shown itself as highly invasive in Vermont water bodies and in other regions of North America. Once it gains a foothold, you cannot eradicate it, only try to control it. TPMP has been doing a good job in that regards, thanks to divers Cat and Shane Yoder.

TPMP raises funds through grants, dues from lake owners, donations and fund raisers. These funds are used to hire divers to harvest the watermilfoil, and to teach people about Eurasian watermilfoil - and the way that it is transported in to and from Tinmouth Pond and other bodies of waters. TPMP publishes a newsletter several times a year called *The Pond Frog* to help educate folks on how to identify and how to prevent the spread of invasive plants and invasive species.

**Goats Milk and Shea Butter Soaps!!
...just in time for Holiday Gift-Giving!**

All summer long, small batches of great-smelling and incredibly moisturizing soaps have been curing. At last, they are ready for use! (Should you know a few friends who love high quality, handmade gifts...)

Naturally scented with organic essential oils, here is the list of soaps: Lavender, Tea Tree/Eucalyptus, Peppermint, Lavender/Peppermint, Clary Sage, Cedar wood/Patchouli, Ginger/Lemongrass, Pine/Cedar wood, Lemongrass, Patchouli, Cinnamon/Nutmeg/Ginger, Rosemary/Mint, Bergamot, Lavender/Peppermint/Cedar wood, Lemon with Calendula Petals, Unscented Calendula Petal, Cinnamon/Cedar wood, Tea Tree/Eucalyptus/Rosemary, Cedar wood/Clary Sage/Lavender, Unscented.

Highly moisturizing and skin soothing, these soaps are sold as singles(\$8) or sets of three(\$20) and four(\$30). Wooden soap holders are available(\$1). Soaps are 4oz and circular. Beautifully boxed. Delivered to you. Last day to order is December 12, 2021. (However, soap supply is limited due to an eight-week cure time.)

**Spoon Mountain Botanicals
Tinmouth, Vermont.
802-282-6240**

For more details contact Bess: blewriver@gmail.com

Beautiful and Bright! Beeswax/Soy Blend Candles are also available in any of the natural fragrances listed above. Candles also offered in the following fragrances: Maple Syrup, Chai Tea, Vanilla Bean, Pumpkin Pie, Harvest Spice, Sweet Almond.
Sold in clear (whiskey glass) containers. 8oz. \$20 each.

~ Unclaimed Property ~

There are many Tinmouth folks on the Vermont State Treasurer's Unclaimed Property list. Some have less than \$1, some have more than \$200. Please visit the website at the Vermont State Treasurer's Office; email unclaimed.property@vermont.gov; or call them at 802-828-2407 to see if you are listed and for directions on how to claim your property. It could be an uncashed check, utility deposit, etc. Companies are required to turn unclaimed property over to the state, who has to hold it until it is properly claimed.

~ Meeting Highlights ~

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

Select Board ~ 10/14/21

Present were members Meadow Squier and Cathy Reynolds in person, with Frank Sears via Zoom, as well as Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner via Zoom phone, Rick Smyrski – Morton Buildings via Zoom, Sherry Johnson & Kim Harbaugh via Zoom, Michael Fallar @8:15, and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant (SBA).

Board reviewed agenda – added - update from Cathy & Gail’s meeting with Mill River School District

Public Works Facilities Update ~ Rick from Morton advised that Morton staff has reviewed the Soils Report and feels an Alaskan slab would work on this site. They will need to remove soils to bed rock (there is ledge in the middle of the site) and fill back in with material to create a bedrock surface, with a moisture barrier beneath, insulated around the outside. Cathy advised Morton to review the Vermont Energy Code as it is different than the construction code for an Alaskan slab, and it has to be met. Frank inquired about supply availability and cost. Rick noted that Morton builds its own steel components, so that’s not a problem, but outside vendors may be an issue, wood, doors, windows, etc. Cathy advised that the town wants to be first on Morton’s list in the spring, asked for a calendar/time line to make that work, and asked for an updated estimate for the Board meeting on the 26th. Rick advised the cost of steel is still pretty high, but he would be able to provide a cost estimate for then.

Highway- Eric advised the road crew has been spot grading, hauling sand and finishing up the required storm water work segments on Merrill Spring Road. He gave the SB a head’s up about repair needed on the grader – in discovering it needed a new exhaust manifold, he also discovered a crack in the block. While parts are available, he was not able to get an estimate of the cost. Frank expressed concern with giving out a blank check for the repair, and wondered if the cost would be worth more than the equipment. Board discussed the need for the repair – Eric advised that it could be fixed next week and that he needed it before the 26th (next Board meeting) – and that Eric was responsible for staying within the budget. In the end, the SB agreed to get it fixed.

Consulting the **Equipment Fund Repair** schedule, it showed the grader being replaced with another used grader in 2024. Board will also think about stretching replacement of the trucks so they are not so close together.

Gail advised that **Navistar** did approve the \$10,000 **voucher** for the replacement of the 2013 truck, but as Delurey’s has been bought out by International, there may be a question of securing payment.

iPad for Highway – Eric advised he needed an iPad to track and report the stormwater work required by the state. The software needed will be provided by the

Rutland Regional Planning Commission. After brief discussion, Board voted to purchase an iPad for road inventory and stormwater work using ARPA funds. Cathy asked Eric to check with Steffanie at RRPC to see if there are reports that can be printed for the SB. Frank quoted from Steffanie’s email to the Select Board regarding this purchase, “It was really a pleasure to see the amazing work completed by your road crew. Tinmouth is fortunate to have this kind of talent!”

Storm Water Work Budget – Eric reported the storm water work is getting done with the extra help. The SBA asked him to work on estimates for future projects – an overall cost- that could be budgeted for and perhaps use ARPA funds to do. Cathy volunteered to help him.

Emerald Ash Borer – Eric inquired as to whether it was okay to clear ash trees by tipping them into the woods or pasture, there are three on Mountain View Road, near Merrill Spring Road. The current property owners live in California. Board discussed what the practice should be, whether the land owner should be contacted and by whom, whether the Tree Warden or the Road Commissioner can make the determination. Board would like Tree Warden David Birdsall’s guidance. Added to agenda for the 26th.

Emergency Management/Mitigation Grant Update – Cathy reported the salt/sand shed grant application was 23 pages and requested **\$472,631**. There is another opportunity for a Transportation Alternative Grant for salt/sand sheds. Board voted to apply for a grant for the salt/sand shed from that source of funding as well. Cathy noted she will work with Devon Neary from the Rutland Regional Transportation Council – and use the fact that the Clarendon River is nearby and that it is a “distressed” river and that any run- off from the town property makes it way there. (*We call it the Tinmouth Channel – state maps show it as the Clarendon River – more points in the grant process for distressed waters*).

Financial ~

Financial Report – Board reviewed reports, Treasurer asked that the Board approve adjusting the FY22 Revenue budget, not the total, but move the \$5,000 carryover for tree work from the general side to the highway side, and to note that when setting the property tax rate, the SB moved the budgeted \$25,000 delinquent taxes to property taxes per the suggestion of the professional audit and the town auditors.

Warrants Reviewed ~ Payroll Warrants #13 dated 10/4/21 for \$2,407.61; and #14 dated 10/11/21 for \$4,174.30; and **Accounts Payable Warrant** #6 dated 10/5/21 for \$25,777.55 were reviewed. Board voted to approve the Financial Reports/ Requests and Warrants as presented.

Audit ~ No contact yet with Barry Cohen. Gail advised that the town auditors have started the FY21 audit. SBA also noted that consultation with professional auditors

revealed that an annual outside audit would cost \$22,000 year. SB decided that was too much for a small town.

Old Business ~

COOP – Cathy inquired about progress, Gail provided updated procedure for accounts payable and payroll processing, will keep working on audit recommendations - wants to review with town auditors to develop a plan to adopt what is appropriate for Tinnmouth.

Tech Plan – Meadow noted there are many options, would like to know what the budget might be, as the “Owl” costs about \$900. Board also discussed town meeting, whether voters could participate virtually, if other towns are also considering it – floor meeting would not allow for remote voting. Michael suggested the SB think about the floor portion of town meeting switching to Australian balloting. Need to check with the Secretary of State.

Mill River Unified Union School District – Cathy reported on the preliminary meeting with the MRUUSD superintendent, business manager, board chair, facilities manager, and attorney, regarding issues with the water system maintenance (fire department paid nearly \$1400 extra for electricity due to the water leak last winter), use of the community center and the town’s share of utilities (electricity and fuel) for non-school events, custodial responsibilities (Cathy noted that town users clean before and after use in many cases), concern in other towns that Tinnmouth got to keep their school and they did not (Superintendent Dave Younce assured everyone that if a school was closed it would be offered to that town for \$1), and that Gail as SBA, had been appointed by the SB to be the point of contact for the facilities manager. The SU will prepare a draft document to codify the utility arrangement so there is no doubt going forward, for Select Board review. Frank noted that Cathy and Gail are the messengers, have no decision authority. Meadow noted the town people use the community center, not the school.

New Business ~

ARPA – Need a plan, need to be clear about the frame work and then ask for input, and need to inquire whether TVFD can use the funds to pay for PPE? Board working on possible uses of funds.

IT Plan – Added to meeting on the 26th.

Opioid Settlement Letter – Also added to meeting on the 26th.

Members Concerns – Cathy inquired about the Bond Bank application – SBA advised it is in progress.

Mail/Correspondence – Regional Planning Commission request for appointment to the new Regional Emergency Management Council – Sherry will send email to TVFD to see if anyone is interested. Emergency Management Director Michael Fannin is the first rep. Board added to agenda for the 26th.

Select Board ~ 10/26/21

Present were members Frank Sears, Meadow Squier and Cathy Reynolds, as well as Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner (Zoom phone), Sherry Johnson & Kim Harbaugh (Zoom), Todd Dennis (Zoom), Michael Fallar, and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant (SBA).

Minutes of 10/14/2021 – Board voted to approve with change to Public Works section regarding Vermont’s Energy Code.

Public Works Facilities Update ~ No Stan or Rick Smyrski (Morton guy), updates on 11/11.

Highway- Board opened **winter salt bids**. Four requests were sent, two were received. Cargill Salt bid \$72.31 for rock salt and \$80.31 for Clear-lane De-Icer; Apalachee Salt bid \$91.00 for rock salt and \$106.56 for Deicer. Board voted to accept Cargill’s quote.

Eric reported he dropped the **grader** off for repair at Windmill on Park St, they are waiting for parts to arrive.

Emerald Ash Borer – Eric reported that Tree Warden David Birdsall was able to contact the owners (Somers) of the parcel on Mountain View Road and got permission to push the ash trees into the pasture, they expressed desire to have someone use the firewood – Select Board decided anyone interested would have to contact the Somers. Eric received permission from Foell and Riley to also take down ash trees on their property – they will keep the firewood.

Board discussed **Tree Removal Policy**, Meadow reported that David wanted to develop it on his own, she will assist. Tree Policy Committee will not be needed, may not need to be re-appointed next year.

Equity and Inclusion Committee – Todd reported interested potential members met, all wanted to serve, there are 10 people, committee was to have 9 members. Potential members asked the Select Board to decide. Meadow expressed her strong desire to be on the committee, in a leadership position – not the SB liaison or as an ex-officio member. Todd reported three folks were willing to serve on sub-committees, Rene Wilbur, Kevin Eaton and Nelson Jaquay.

Those putting forth their names – in alphabetical order – Logan Birdsall, Todd Dennis, Michael Fallar, Kim Harbaugh, Sherry Johnson, Lothar Schmelzenbach, Meadow Squier, Melody Squier, Rainbow Squier, and Emma Weatherhogg. After discussion of potential members, Board voted to appoint all 10 (increased the size of the committee), to be revisited in six months. Cathy volunteered to be on subcommittees for Tinnmouth Day and Welcoming newcomers.

Others ~ Michael, as Planning Commission Chair, reported the PC would like to help the SB with planning for uses of the ARPA funds. One suggestion from their last meeting was to think about adding an emergency center operations room to the town garage, to see if that would help provide ARPA funds to that project.

ARPA Funds (American Recovery Plan Act) – Select Board would like more information before reaching out to the community for input. Many questions remain about allowable uses for the ARPA funds. SB needs a plan.

Financial ~

Warrants Reviewed ~ Payroll Warrants #15 dated 10/18/21 for \$2,070.20, and #16 dated 10/25/21 for \$3,458.57; and **Accounts Payable Warrant** #7 dated 10/18/21 for \$8,253.19 were reviewed. Board voted to approve warrants as presented.

Audit ~ Meadow has spoken with Barry Cohen, he will have something for the SB meeting on the 11th.

Agenda Building - Board discussed what and what not to have on the agenda – EAB only if David will be present, only add items if there has been action and needs to be discussed – this is a new direction – SBA was previously instructed to keep items on the agenda until they were dealt with – appears to not be working. Suggested not have 2nd meeting every month – SB will determine at it’s first meeting if another is needed – it was also suggested to move some of the agenda items to the 2nd meeting. Financial reports/warrants are only needed once per month.

Old Business ~

COOP – Still a work in progress.

Tech Plan – Board discussed purchasing an “Owl”, a tech device to enhance virtual participation at meetings, cost is about \$900. Cathy moved and Meadow 2nded to purchase the “Owl” if it is ARPA eligible. All voted in favor. Also need an ARPA determination regarding the iPad for the road commissioner.

New Business –

REMC - Board voted to appoint Ryan Deppert, TVFD, as Tinmouth’s second representative for the new Rutland Emergency Management Council. EMD Michael Fannin is the first (appointed by statute).

IT Plan – Board discussed proposal from Rural Techs for an evaluation of what the town has and what it might need in regards to technology and cyber security. Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is working on an RFP for these issues. Board decided to wait for that document and then go out to bid.

National Opioid Settlement Letter - After brief discussion, Board voted to participate. Tinmouth may not receive direct benefit, but it may help the state’s share.

Re-Districting – Town Clerk reported the initial re-districting plan resulting from the 2020 census, shows that Tinmouth will be put back together – all voters would be in the district with Middletown Springs, Wells, Pawlet and Rupert. No more East and West Districts for House Representatives. Still has not been approved by the Legislature.

Mail/Correspondence – Rutland Free Library proposed FY23 budget (2%) increase; VLCT posting regarding services/webinars.

Planning Commission ~ 10/21/21

Members present: Judy Gilmore, Andy Gilmore, Vito Macaluso, Rainbow Squier, Michael Fallar, with Kim Harbaugh, Bob Lloyd and Pat Psholka via Zoom

Others present: Alan Gilmore, Peter Gilmore, Sherry Johnson (Zoom) and Gail Fallar, Secretary

Village Center Designation Update – Bob reported on the meeting with the State Board. He gave a brief statement, Rutland Mayor Dave Allaire express support, Board voted to approve. Tinmouth now has a Designated Village Center. Everyone thanked Bob for his work on this accomplishment.

Alan and Peter requested permission for the Gilmore Farm LLC, to proceed with a **subdivision application** for the 4 acres excluded on the former Hod Hepburn farm as the remainder of the farm and the Gilmore home farm had been conserved through the Vermont Land Trust. Gail advised that the Planning Commission in 1980 had allowed for 10 acre parcels in a 25 acre minimum lot district as 1200 other acres were conserved as part of that project. The Town hired an attorney at the time to ensure it was proper and allowable. After brief discussion, Pat moved and Bob 2nded to allow the subdivision to proceed. Judy and Andy recused themselves as family members, all others voted in favor.

Doug Inklely sent an inquiry about how to proceed with transferring five acres from NeighborWorks/October Hill to Tinmouth Properties. The PC had previously approved allowing the affordable housing project to create two five-acre parcels (in lieu of the ¼ acre lots with 8 acres of common land), but through negotiations between the Inklelys and NeighborWorks, the lines would be modified so that the driveway will all be on the lot with the existing house. Members decided it needed to come before them for review as the deeds were never created in the 2 parcel scenario, so a boundary adjustment could not be the solution. Hope to have the application for a hearing on November 18th.

Subdivisions are still in progress. Scribner hopes to be ready for the November PC meeting.

Members discussed ARPA money (American Recovery Plan Act) and how the town should spend the \$177,000 it will receive. Suggestions included fixing the old creamery, creating a recreation area and connecting it to the old creamery, affordable housing, creating an emergency management center at the new town garage (funds cannot be used for a new town garage), among others. More details for possible uses need to be obtained, but PC wants to help the Select Board with exploring ideas. The town office is the current emergency command center – a backup generator has been suggested there as one possible use.

Conservation Commission ~ 10/18/21

With thanks to Chuck Bronk, Sec.

Members Present: Ed Hasenohr, Nelson Jaquay(Zoom), Rainbow Squier, Doug Fontein, and Chuck Bronk.

Public Present: Gail Fallar, and Doug Inkley(Zoom)

Ongoing Business:

Regarding Emerald Ash Borer, Rainbow reported that David Birdsall had no additional information regarding the tests/traps but that sightings have been noted in West Rutland and Pawlet. He provided access to web sites and additional information in an email to Rainbow. On a related note, Spotted Lantern Fly sightings have been noted in Vermont as this invasive species seems to be moving North.

On the addition of switchbacks to the Ridge Trail, Doug reported that he had marked the locations with blue flagging with the property owner in attendance. In order for the switchbacks to be functional they will need to be cut and blazed and the former trail will need to have its blazes painted out and that path blocked. Doug also noted that two rough sawn hemlock planks are on site for bog bridge repair but that some additional planks would be required for repair and replacement work. He asked if we had funds for such a purchase and Gail, as town treasurer, reported that we had \$500 as a carryover from last year and an additional \$500 for this year.

Doug provided Rainbow with a detailed work list for the Tinmouth Mountain Cabin prior to the Work Day that was rescheduled. He added that he had purchased a splitting maul to be used at the cabin and that on a recent visit he had un-stuck the ladder (20' or 24' extension). The entire loop trail was re-blazed in white, covering the former red blazes. He was told that a Mountain Bike Race was a recent visitor to the cabin and that the person that owns Analog Bikes in Poultney organized the race. Per the By Laws no wheeled vehicles are permitted on the loop trail. Discussion of a review of the By Laws and possible amendment were tabled to a future meeting. Doug Inkley inquired if access to the loop trail was only from the West side via Pent Road. Doug Fontein answered that we were working on the connection from the Ridge Trail, ie. from the East, but that a considerable amount of trail clearing would be required and that the resulting trail would probably require 2-3 hours from the Community Center to the Mountain Cabin.

After some discussion, a Work Day was rescheduled for the Mountain Cabin on Saturday November 13, 2021, meeting at the lover kiosk at 9:00AM. Doug Fontein asked that attendees bring a hammer and day packs to facilitate carrying tools to the site.

Rainbow described an idea that she had to increase community involvement in Tinmouth, an annual landscape photo contest. A winning photo could be showcased on the Tinmouth web site, along with a gallery of submissions/runner-ups. The winner could be

announced at Tinmouth Day or perhaps a gallery of submissions in the Old Fire House, could be voted on that day. It might be possible to partner with the Tinmouth Writers Group to include poems and written pieces. *Tales of Tinmouth* and Front Porch Forum would be a possible place for announcing the contest and providing the ground rules or categories of submissions. Nelson commented that Mount Holly has a gallery of such photos and that Pam Meyers is the curator.

Other business:

Gail Fallar reported that there are bats living in the attic of the Town Office and that she would appreciate the help of the Conservation Commission in excluding them from the space. She provided a drawing of a one-way bat exit device and Doug Fontein agreed to fabricate one. Discussion of where the bats might relocate, centered around bat houses. Chuck offered to donate one as did Doug Inkley, when he returns in the Spring. It was suggested that the East side of the Old Creamery would be a good possible location.

Next regular meeting set for December 20, 2021.

Equity & Inclusion Group ~ 10/19/21

Potential members met at the Old Fire House and via Zoom at the request of the Select Board to determine which nine volunteers to recommend to be appointed by the Select Board. After discussion of vision and possible projects and who wanted to serve on the main committee and who was willing to serve on a subcommittee, it was decided to present the names of all volunteers to the Select Board and let them decide. There were two interested folks who were unable to attend, they were to be contacted regarding which status they wanted.

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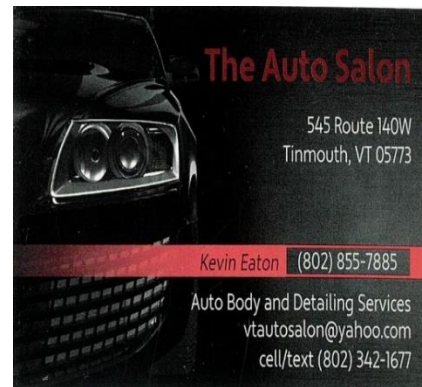
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Massage therapy also available on Sundays in Fair Haven at Goldenberry's Apothecary (across the street from Carl Durfee's): \$85 for 60 minutes and \$125 for 90 minutes. Booking times are the same as listed above. Parking is free.

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~ Bess Lewis ~
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~ November 2021 Calendar of Events ~

Fire Department	Thursday	4 th	7:00	Fire House
Basket Raffle for Nate Ricketts	Saturday	6 th	11:00 AM	Danby-Mt. Tabor Fire House
Select Board	Thursday	11 th	7:00	Town Office
2 nd Half Property Taxes Due	Monday	15 th	Midnight	Town Office
Equity & Inclusion Committee	Tuesday	16 th	7:00	Town Office or OFH
Planning Commission	Thursday	18 th	7:00	Town Office
TVFD Chicken & Biscuits	Saturday	20 th	4:00 – 7:00	Take Out at Fire House
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Saturday	20 th		Don't Miss It!
Select Board - Maybe	Tuesday	23 rd	7:00	Town Office
Town Office	Thursday	25 th	CLOSED	to celebrate Thanksgiving

~ December 2021 Calendar of Events ~

Fire Department	Thursday	2 nd	7:00	Fire House
Select Board	Thursday	9 th	7:00	Town Office
Equity & Inclusion Committee	Tuesday	14 th	7:00	Town Office
Planning Commission	Thursday	16 th	7:00	Town Office
Conservation Commission	Monday	20 th	7:30	Town Office
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Wednesday	20 th		Don't Miss It!
Select Board ~ Maybe	Tuesday	28 th	7:00	Town Office

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

~ Sunday Church Service ~ 9:00 am ~

~ Library – Now open Thursdays 10:00 -Noon and 1:30-4:30 ~

And first Saturday of the month from 9:30 - Noon

Meetings are in-person and virtual via Zoom. Check the agenda or call the town office for the Zoom link.

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