

# TALES OF TINMOUTH

December 2021  
Vol. 35 Number 12

Tinmouth  
Vermont

## Editors' Notes:

*Peace on Earth, Good Will to All.*

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

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

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

*Gail Fallar and Pat Psholka*



## Christmas in Tinmouth

December 11, 2021  
10:00am - Noon

- 10:00 Santa arrives at the Tinmouth Community Church on a Fire Truck
- 10:15 Caroling outside the Tinmouth Community Church
- 10:30 Story Telling outside the old Fire House  
Join Maggie Morin reading a story and Mo Squier telling a story
- 11:00 Theresa Butts coordinating Crafts and Activities at the Community Center  
(Masks required)

Hot Chocolate will be available at the Fire Department. Bring your own mug or borrow one of ours.

Pick up a pallet Christmas Tree to decorate for the Tinmouth's Festival of Trees. Take home a pallet, decorate it and display where others can enjoy it. Pallets will be available by the Old Creamery.

**Please have your pallet tree in place by December 18<sup>th</sup>.**



Questions?

Nate Miner 446-7015

Sherry Johnson (E&I Committee) 446-3307  
Parking available at the Community Center

## *Food Drive For*

**Tinmouth Community Christmas Food Baskets**  
**Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:00 AM until 11:00 AM**

**in the basement of the Tinmouth Community Church**

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

These items will be used to fill 25 or so food baskets for less fortunate families in town, who really appreciate your generosity. Or you can drop items off at the Town Office anytime between now and then. The Mill River Union High School National Honor Society is helping with this effort as well as they can in these difficult times. We will then add to those baskets with more food and other items.

**Non-Perishable Food Items** such as peanut butter, jelly/jam, applesauce, pineapple, oatmeal, cereal, flour, sugar, oil, soup, pasta, spaghetti sauce, juice, boxed cake mixes, stuffing, tuna fish, crackers, rice, mac and cheese, beans, vegetables, fruit, cookies, etc.

**Household Items** such as laundry detergent, dish soap, hand soap, shampoo, facial tissue, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, sanitizer, wipes, Clorox.

**Pet Food** such as canned cat food, canned dog food, small bag dry dog food, small bag dry cat food, dog or cat treats.

**Monetary donations** to help cover the costs of perishable items such as meat, milk, juice, eggs, produce, fruit, and bread. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to the Roy and Anne Wilbur Fund (which is under the umbrella of the Tinmouth Community Church), and left at the town office or mailed to 515 North End Rd, Tinmouth, VT 05773.

Also needed are *monetary donations* to help provide clothes and gifts for kids (books, socks, mittens, toys).

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

*Thank you for your kind generosity!*

*Joyous Holidays to All!*

*The Tinmouth Elves*

**December 2021 Calendar of Events ~**



<b>Fire Department</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>In-Person and Virtual</b>
<b>Library ~ Special Hours</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:30-Noon</b>	<b>Library</b>
<b>Select Board</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6 :30</b>	<b>In-Person and Virtual</b>
<b>Santa Comes to Town</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10-Noon</b>	<b>Church/Library/Fire House</b>
<b>Caroling</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:15</b>	<b>Church Parking Lot</b>
<b>Planning Commission</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>In-Person and Virtual</b>
<b>Holiday Food Drive</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9-11 AM</b>	<b>Church Basement</b>
<b>Tales of Tinmouth Deadline</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Don't Miss It!</b>
<b>First day of Winter</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>		<b>Enjoy the Solstice!</b>
<b>Christmas Eve Service</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Virtual ~ see back page for details!</b>
<b>Town Office</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>CLOSED for Christmas</b>
<b>Transfer Station</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>CLOSED for Christmas</b>

**January 2022 Calendar of Events**

<b>Transfer Station</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>8:00-Noon</b>	<b>OPEN!!!!</b>
<b>Town Office</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>		<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Fire Department</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>In-Person and Virtual</b>
<b>Select Board</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>In-Person and Virtual</b>
<b>Equity &amp; Inclusion Committee</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>In-Person and Virtual</b>
<b>Tales of Tinmouth Deadline</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Don't Miss It!</b>
<b>Planning Commission</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>In-Person and Virtual</b>

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



**~ Tinmouth Elves Request Assistance ~**  
*By Tracy Byford*

The Tinmouth Elves are asking for help again this year to provide children in need, who range in age from 1-15 with warm clothing, books, art supplies and sports equipment, including sleds and balls.

In the past we have received generous donations which have enabled us to provide for a number of children in town. This year we have a record number of children in need. Funds are used to purchase boots, hats, coats and warm clothing as needed for each child and toys and books that enhance learning, play and curiosity based on each child's interests.

Each child receives the gifts wrapped; our team of Elves work hard to make all of this happen by shopping and wrapping. Your monetary donations make this possible. Thanks, as always to the community for helping to brighten the holidays for kids!

Checks can be written to **Roy and Anne Wilbur Fund** and left at the Town Office or mailed to 515 North End Road, Tinmouth, VT 05773.

**What:** Drive Thru Food/Monetary Donation Drop Off

**When:** Saturday, December 11  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Mill River Union High School  
2321 Middle Road, North Clarendon, VT

**Benefit:** Mill River's NHS Food Basket Service Project

Contact: Mary Colvin -  
[mcolvin@millriverschools.org](mailto:mcolvin@millriverschools.org)/802-775-3451 x243

**~ Front Porch Forum ~**  
**Connect with your Tinmouth Neighbors**

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

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

## Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department Thank-You!

By Sherry Johnson

The Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank everyone who participated in the "Chicken and Biscuit with Pie Dinner". We raised over \$4,000 dollars with dinner sales and donations.

Thank you, everyone who purchased a dinner, pie or gave a donation. We hope we can return to putting on our Annual Game Supper when it is safe to do so. Our first priority is the safety of our community.

Saturday, we had several people come up to the Fire House this year looking for the Game Supper. Thank you to everyone who made chicken, biscuits and pies.

Also, a shoutout to Hannaford's who helped us purchase the chicken.



### Need Help with your Holiday Shopping?

Need a special present from Tinmouth? The Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department is selling red and pink tee shirts with Tinmouth's logo on the front and an awesome

skull wearing a fire fighter hat on the back. These shirts are the same as the fire fighter's tee shirts, only they are red instead of blue.

Sizes available are medium, large, XL (pink only) and 2XL. The shirts are \$20 each.

If you are interested, call Sherry Johnson at 446-3307 or email her at vtsjohnson@icloud.com.



### ~ Town Meeting 2022 ~

Thinking about serving your community? Town Meeting will find voters choosing the following officers:

- Moderator - Town - 1 year term
- Select Board Member - 3 year term
- Community Center Board - 2 year term
- School Director - 3 year term
- Lister - 3 year term
- Auditor - 3 year term
- Auditor - 2 year term

Tax Collector (Delinquent) - 1 year term

Petitions will be available after January 1<sup>st</sup>.



### ~ Library News ~

By Ruth Drachman, Librarian

**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.

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

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

### ~ Tinmouth Community Fund Update ~

by Jan Krantz

The Tinmouth Community Fund Board (TCF) met on 11/18/21 to discuss and make funding decisions for the upcoming year. The outcome is a change will take place to streamline the grant and scholarship process.

Going forward, **all grant proposals and scholarship applications will now be due on or before the same date, which is May 1, 2022.** This includes Community Fund Grants and Small Business Grants, (which were previously due February 1<sup>st</sup>) as well as Continuing Education and K-12 Scholarships. **We will again host an awards night, planned for early June 2022, to award all the grants and scholarships.**

For now, all TCF applications can be found online at <https://www.tinmouthvt.org/community-fund/>. We are working to make changes to documents and the website deadline and guidance.

We now use an online format for all grant and scholarship applications. Please note, Community Fund and Small Business Grant applications are both found under the Community Fund Grant Information tab on the website.

**New for 2022**, we decided to increase the amount for individual **Community Fund Grant proposals, from \$500 up to \$750. The total funding for all Small Business Grants combined will be capped at \$1000.** In both cases, grants may be competitive. If you have any questions about the application process, please reach out to board members who are listed on the tinmouthvt.org website, on the community fund page, or email tinmouthcommunityfund@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing your ideas on how TCF can help support a program and/or project that enhances the well-being of Tinmouth and its residents!





TINMOUTH CHURCH

~ **Tinmouth Community Church** ~

We love stories. Stories intrigue us. Stories inspire us. Stories inform us. Stories also form us. What are the stories that have formed you? What is the running narrative in your mind that directs your life?

Holiday time is story time, stories like "A Christmas Carol", "It's a Wonderful Life", "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and others. Integral to our holiday storytelling are the stories of our holidays past, especially as they recall loved ones who are not with us. Some stories make us laugh, some ponder, some evoke tears, some set us to dreaming. They are part of who we are and part of the ongoing, unfolding story that we are living.

Overarching our personal stories and guiding the ongoing story of our lives is a grand story that gives coherence to our individual ones, grounds us in an ordering identity, provides us with meaning and purpose, and gives us hope for our future. The holiday stories of our religious faiths are such grand stories. They speak about freedom from bondage and deliverance from evil, of our woundedness and healing, and of being lost and of finding ourselves. They tell of a God who will lead us into a promised land and new life, if we are willing to follow. Grand stories are archetypal stories, transcendent stories, cosmic stories, that speak to our pressing needs and deepest longings. As they are shared, they form us; as they are lived out, all the more so, and all the more like the transformative love of which they speak.

Holiday blessings to you all.

**"Shalom." The peace of God to you.**

**Blessings this season,  
Pastor John**

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  
(802) 282-7532 (cell, preferred)  
(802) 884-8249 (parsonage)  
[hzfam@hotmail.com](mailto:hzfam@hotmail.com)

Please join us for a Virtual Christmas Eve Service at [Tinmouthchurch.org](http://Tinmouthchurch.org).



**Tinmouth**  
Mountain School



To the Tinmouth Community,

November has been a quiet month at TMS. The focus has been on academics. Math and reading workshops have been part of our daily routine. However, a high absentee rate across all grades has made teaching challenging. This is due to the current and necessary quarantine requirements and pandemic precautions which seem to be effective. Tinmouth Mountain School has not had to quarantine cohorts of students due to close contact with Covid positive staff or peers - so far. You may be tired of hearing this, but again, teachers and staff are grateful for the collaborative efforts of our community in keeping students home with even a remote possibility of exposure to Covid positive individuals. The holiday season is here and experience tells us that the rise in positive cases coincides with family gatherings. Please continue to be vigilant throughout the season.

Our highlight this month was the visit by our very own "Cow Plow". This is a state Department of Transportation plow the children named in October. "Cow Plow" operates out of the Castleton garage and our visit on November 17th provided an opportunity for students to ask questions of state plow drivers about their work. "Tinmouth Mountain School" is written on the side of the plow so keep an eye out for our very own Cow Plow!

The TMS staff wish all our community members a peaceful and safe holiday season!

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



**"Cow Plow" with TMS students**



~ Christmas Baskets ~

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

If you, or someone you know, need(s) a basket, please call Gail at 446-2498. If you have a bounty of potatoes, onions, or squash from your garden, or fresh eggs, they are most welcome. **If you have an extra turkey or ham, that you would like to donate they are welcome too.**

**Fruit Baskets** are distributed to nearly 20 folks as well. If you have an extra basket, we still need a few. Please drop them off at the town office. Thanks!

There were **five Thanksgiving Baskets** delivered, thanks to the generosity of folks who donated money for turkeys and perishables and left food at the town office. They were very much appreciated.



~ Nature Notes ~

Hope you were able to wake up early (3:00 AM) or so to see the recent eclipse of the moon – clouds parted at just the right time. If not, you'll have to wait another 600 years!

Snow fell the day after Thanksgiving – bringing joy to young ones, still clinging to power lines and trees even 5 days later! Roads were rather slippery, remember to slow down.

~ Community News ~

Thank you to **Zan, Avery, and Cate Stone** for ringing the Church bell on 11/11/21 at 11:00 to commemorate Veterans (Armistice) Day and honor our veterans.

*Get Well Wishes* are sent to **Shannon Squier, John Squier, Nancy Birdsall, Zachary Butler, and Jeffrey Butler.**

*Heartfelt Sympathies* are sent to **Joe Faucher** and family for the loss of his Dad; and to family and friends of **Mary Jacobie** (Cathy Ricketts daughter).



~ Winter Plowing ~

As winter is quickly approaching, here's a reminder about plowing your driveway. **It's actually against state law to plow across the town road.** However, if you really, really, **absolutely**, have to plow across the town road, **please** make sure that you **clean the road really well.**

Thank you for your cooperation!

Winter Driving Tips ~

Vermont Emergency Management urges residents to travel with caution and appropriately for road conditions and offers some winter safety tips:

- Check road and weather conditions before leaving; visit [www.511vt.com](http://www.511vt.com) or call 511 for this information.
- Always allow yourself extra time to get to your destination.
- Make sure your vehicle is in good mechanical condition with snow tires and winter windshield wiper blades.
- Watch for and expect changing road conditions, black ice, blowing snow, high winds or whiteout conditions, which can appear when you least expect them to.
- The single most important rule is to drive at a speed that matches the prevailing visibility, traffic and road conditions. The posted speed limits are for dry, clear conditions only.
- Be sure to leave yourself plenty of extra room, extend the following distance from other vehicles ahead.

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

**211 is a service of the United Way.**



**Wanted:**  
**Reflections of Tinmouth**, written by Mildred Allen.  
Someone is looking for a copy of this book.  
Please call the town office if you can help. 446-2498.

~ **Meeting Highlights** ~

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

**Select Board ~ 11/11/21**

Members present: Meadow Squier and Cathy Reynolds in person, Frank Sears via Zoom

Others present: Via Zoom Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Pat Psholka, Barbara Noyes-Pulling (RRPC), Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker (School Principal), and David Birdsall

In-person Rick Smyrski – Morton Buildings, Stan Wilbur, Michael Fallar, and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant (SBA).

**Public Works Facilities Update** ~ Rick from Morton suggested four changes to the design-build:

- 1) 2" of spray foam for insulation; no change in the cost of the foundation for the Alaskan slab;
- 2) Change suspended heaters to a gas boiler for heat, still with ceiling distribution, with a mini split for the rest room and office;
- 3) Heat exchanger, would add \$25,000, would include sensors and fans (first proposal already includes a vent to exhaust fumes);
- 4) Concrete apron in front of the doors so the trucks can get in an out, 10' – increase in cost of \$7500.

Rick also presented a time-line for action –

\* 11/11/21 Board needs to approve floor plans, changes to mechanical systems (heating), 20' ceiling to 16' with a span bay inside to allow for dump box to be raised

\* 12/9/21 Authorize Step 2 of the Design Build - detail scope of subcontractors, confirm Build Agreement

\* 2/10/22 Approve final design, activate construction agreement

\* 5/22/22 Site prep, foundation

\* 6/2022 Build it

Board discussed options. Board voted to accept the floor plans dated 4/21/21, which includes a 6'x10' porch, a 10' x 12' office, and the span bay.

Cathy asked for clarification for the heat mechanical cost total for 12/9/21 meeting, noting that the gas heating unit might last 15 years, the boiler should last 25 years and might be able to be replaced with wood.

Board voted to decline #3 and #4 above.

Board voted to accept #1 above.

Board inquired about new total cost, Rick responded that 60' x 80' with 16' side walls and span bay is now estimated at \$535,800. Changes to the foam and boiler will increase that however. Not included is water or waste water lines beyond 5' from the building, paving, exterior concrete/lighting/landscaping. Interior bollards would cost extras. He will send Board materials to review before the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Stan noted that now that the location of the garage is set, he will proceed with quotes for a well and holding tank, with well specs for the Board's 12/9 meeting.

Before Stan departed, he gave permission for the removal of the dilapidated picnic table on his lawn across from the town office – noting it belonged to the town.

Board decided to meet at 6:30 on 12/9, and thanked Rick for his efforts.

**Highway-** Eric advised he is still waiting for the grader to be repaired, getting ready for winter. Meadow inquired about loose stones on Route 140 – Eric advised it was from the shouldering operation (placing gravel on the edge of the paved road) and he would blow it off with the leaf blower.

**FY23 Budget Work** – Board discussed several areas – how much winter salt will be used, less was used last year, Eric advised it depends on the year, how much freezing rain, really hard to predict; need to determine an amount for removing dead ash trees; temporary help – with the town garage construction and tree removal; Potter's Brook culvert project expenses; CPI increase for wages; storm water projects; summer roadside mowing – need RFP to go out to bid (Cathy and Hollis will work on this).

**Winter Contract Plowing** – Brief discussion about contract for winter plowing in West Tinmouth - McCoy Road and Gulf Road have been plowed by Phil Hayes for many years. Frank now works for him, advised there is no conflict of interest. If Phil sells his business, the Board may need to go out to bid for that work.

**Emerald Ash Borer** – David advised there is not much new on the EAB, they are being found here and there in the state, none in Tinmouth yet. He attended a webinar on the state's new Shade Tree law. Recommended the town adopt a shade tree policy – there are 3 versions. Board discussed responsibility for removal of a hazard road side tree – past practice has been, if it is dangerous, the town would take care of it – if the landowner just wanted a tree taken down, it was their responsibility. Board discussed on-going funding for removal, road crew working on them if flagged, spare road crew member to help with tree removal, etc. Board will discuss policy further in February, will wait for model being worked on by several other towns and state agencies.

**Barbara Noyes-Pulling – RRPC** - Barbara presented a report regarding the Flower Brook Watershed (starts in the southern end of Tinmouth). It is a workbook that deals with water quality projects to address climate and flood resilience issues in Tinmouth, Danby and Pawlet. After brief discussion, Board voted to ask the Tinmouth Planning and Conservation Commissions take a look and report back with any actions the town might need to consider. Frank thanked her for her patience as the agenda was quite long.

**Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker – Tinmouth Mountain School** – Maureen asked permission to remove the black plastic border around the playground. It will be easier to maintain – lawn guys can mow closer to the equipment and wood chips can be placed around the equipment and

not have to fill the entire area. After brief discussion, Board voted to give Maureen permission to remove the black plastic border and place wood chips only around the equipment, to allow the grass to be mowed. MRUUSD will take care of removing and disposal.

**Financial Report** – Board reviewed, discussed the need to explain expenses and revenues in one report to understand year end balances. Board voted to accept the Financial Reports.

**Warrants Reviewed ~ Payroll Warrants #17** dated 10/31/21 for \$2,678.78; and #18 dated 11/18/21 for \$2,874.25; and **Accounts Payable Warrant #8** dated 11/1/21 for \$10,336.62 were reviewed. Board voted to approved Warrants as presented.

**New Business ~**

Cathy advised the **iPad** which was \$442 was unavailable, and a newer version was \$609. Board voted to purchase the upgrade.

Meadow reported the cost the **“Owl”** was about \$1200, and is ARPA eligible. Board voted to purchase the Owl and needed tech agreements with ARPA funds.

Gail reported on **Freon removal** from refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners at the Transfer Station. Vendor is no longer available to remove it. Road crew took two truckloads to Hubbard’s, who advised they will remove the Freon. After discussion that included noting other towns do not take them and require folks to take them to Hubbard’s or dispose of them via the dealer, Board voted that the Tinmouth Transfer Station will refuse to accept refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners or anything containing Freon. Cathy noted the Efficiency Vermont had a program that would pay folks for working units to encourage use of more efficient models. Eric noted it would help the road crew as they would not have to work around the pile.

**Eric Hall, RRPC’s ARPA** guy may attend the December meeting to help the SB work on a plan for the ARPA money.

Frank advised that he had been asked to give the “message” at the **Community Thanksgiving Service** and asked for a volunteer to give the Select Board’s usual welcome. Meadow volunteered. It will be a virtual event again this year.

**Old Picnic Table** – SB asked the road crew to make it go away.

**Salt/Sand Shed Grants** – Cathy reported she is working with RRPC on the next round of grants, first was denied. There may be lots of money coming down the road from the federal government. Still not clear if ARPA money can be used for it - conflicting advice has been received.

**Wearing of Masks** – Board voted that until further notice all persons entering the town office and old fire house must wear a mask covering their mouth and nostrils at all times. Discussion ensued – Michael challenged the Board’s authority to issue a mandate – Board noted they

had the authority for buildings under their control, and that an accommodation for those not wishing to wear a mask was to attend meetings via Zoom.

**Next Meeting** ~ Thursday, December 9 at 6:30

**Planning Commission ~ 11/18/21**

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

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

**Gilmore Subdivision Hearing:**

Gail as Zoning Administrator, explained the application for a 4 acre lot in the Rural Residential District. While RR requires a 5 acre minimum lot size, this parcel (the former Hod Hepburn farm) and the Gilmore home farm were conserved a number of years ago, 345 acres with these 4 acres excluded – which at one point in time had 2 dwellings on it. In light of the Planning Commission in 1980 allowing for a smaller lot size in recognition of 1100 acres being conserved, this would be the least deviation of the regulations, and would recognize the conservation (and no development) of the other acres. Members discussed the application, briefly reviewed requirements, acknowledged that the parcel has water, septic and power already present, noted that while a deed described a four acre parcel – it still needs a survey by a licensed surveyor. Bob moved to approve this application due to the large amount of conserved land surrounding it and conditioned on the receipt of the survey within 90 days. Vito 2nded. Andy and Judy recused themselves due to family interest. All others voted in favor. Subdivision application was approved with survey condition. Survey will show required information - existing buildings, wetlands, etc.

Secretary advised that the Baker family had requested a preliminary subdivision meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup> to review their proposed plan for the farm on Route 140/Route 133. Members were asked to review process and procedure as this may be a major subdivision – more than 4 parcels.

No progress on Cohen or Scribner proposed subdivisions – owners are waiting for surveyors to finish.

Michael reported that the Select Board had referred a report from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) regarding the Flower Brook Project that involved the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources and Conservation District and the towns of Pawlet, Danby and Tinmouth to the Planning and Conservation Commissions to review and report back to them (the SB) to determine if any action is needed in regards to climate change and resilience.

Bob reported, as Tinmouth’s rep to RRPC, that RRPC had received a \$550,000 grant for pollution control in the

Southern Lake Champlain Basin. More details will be forthcoming on how it will be used.

Next meeting will be December 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Equity and Inclusion Committee ~ 11/16/20**

*With thanks to Logan Birdsall, Sec.*

Meeting was held at the Tinmouth Town Office and virtually through zoom.

Members present in-person: Meadow Squier, Todd Dennis, Melody Squier, Michael Fallar, Lothar Schmelzenbach

Members present via Zoom: Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Rainbow Squier, Emma Weatherhogg, Logan Birdsall

Guests in-person: Cathy Reynolds, Doug Fontein, Anna Majorell, Gail Fallar, and Miles, Ben, and Ari Fallar

Guests via Zoom: Rene Wilbur

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by convener Meadow Squier.

The Committee voted on leadership positions and the results are as follows:

Chair - Meadow Squier

Vice-Chair - Todd Dennis

Secretary - Logan Birdsall

Sherry and Meadow shared a document from Cornell University summarizing Robert's Rules. The committee adopted Robert's Rules of Order for Small Boards.

#### Subcommittees

Committee voted to create a Mutual Aid Subcommittee. The purpose of this subcommittee is to welcome new residents to Tinmouth and support town members when they are in need (isolating due to covid, other support during trying times). In discussion it was addressed that subcommittees should be composed of at least one member of the Tinmouth Equity and Inclusion Committee and any interested town residents. E+I members will report subcommittee activities back to E+I Committee meetings. It was also addressed that if subcommittees contain more than 6 E+I members, meeting protocols will need follow Vermont's Open Meeting laws. In confusion around subcommittee rules, Rene suggested that terminology be changed from subcommittee to working group. Committee voted to change the name to working group. Todd amended his motion to reflect the language change, and the committee approved creation of a Mutual Aid Working Group.

Committee voted to create a Research and Development Working Group. The purpose of Working Group One of the first steps in determining what our community needs now and in the future is to gather data and information to better inform our decisions.

This committee would work on community surveys, work with the state and other rural

development organizations to gather additional data and work with them to help us determine what is relevant and what options are available for our rural community. There is a lot of support for this type of research especially in the context of building more equitable and inclusive communities.

Discussion involved methods of reaching out to residents, two free methods being Front Porch Forum and *Tales of Tinmouth*.

A proposal for a Tinmouth Christmas Event from Nate Miner was brought to committee by Cathy Reynolds. In discussion it was suggested another working group be formed to help plan and/or support town events. Committee voted to create a Tinmouth Event Working Group.

Committee members volunteered to take part in working groups as follows:

Mutual Aid Working Group: Melody Squier, Sherry Johnson, Todd Dennis, and Logan Birdsall

Research and Development Working Group: Meadow Squier, Emma Weatherhogg, Rainbow Squier, Lothar Schmelzenbach, and Kim Harbaugh

Tinmouth Event Working Group: Meadow Squier, Logan Birdsall, Emma Weatherhogg, and Sherry Johnson

Next committee meeting date was set for January 18, 2022.

### **Tinmouth Community Fund ~ 11/18/21**

*With thanks to Helen Mango, Secretary*

Present in person: Committee members Jan Krantz (Chair), Cathy Reynolds (Treasurer), Helen Mango (Secretary), Lisa Patry, Melody Squier.

Present on Zoom: Asha Carroll McCullough, Todd Dennis, Casey Voigtlaender.

Cathy emailed everyone the treasurer's report in advance of the meeting. Summary: At the end of the third quarter of 2021, the Continuing Education fund had \$335,694, the Endowed Fund had \$155,000 and the Reserve Fund had \$61,000. The Continuing Education fund increased by \$14,000, and the Endowed Fund increased by \$7,000. The Reserve Fund went down to pay for the second round of grants given out this year. There is about \$6,500 in the checking account, in addition to what is in the report.

Discussion about mode of delivery of grant funds: check vs. invoicing? Committee agreed that more documentation is needed, but also need to retain flexibility because of the different ways in which grant money is spent (depending on award's intent).

Discussion about whether to increase the amount of Community Fund Grants: Cathy reminded the committee that the recommendation from the Vermont Community Fund is that we use 5% of the Community Fund annually for grants (this would currently be \$10,800). So we could



give out more grants at the current \$500 each; or fewer grants at higher amounts, which could help fund worthy projects that cost more. Cathy noted that the \$500 amount hasn't changed in over 20 years. Cathy suggested offering grants "up to \$750," with a note that the grants may be competitive and recipients may need to accept less. Approved by consensus.

Discussion regarding grant amounts for Small Business grants and K-12 Camp Scholarships: Jan recommended putting a cap on the total that can be spent for Small Business grants, but not giving a limit to an individual applicant. Total available amounts will remain as they are currently (\$1000 for Small Business grants and \$1500 for Camp Scholarships).

Discussion regarding when to make the awards. Should we do them all at once? Move the date later? Having one deadline for all grants would simplify matters significantly, and awarding all grants at one event would mean that people receiving different kinds of TCF grants would be able to see what the TCF does across all these different funding opportunities. Cathy suggested a deadline of May 1 for all grant applications (continuing education, community grants, small business grants, camp scholarships). Approved by consensus.

Discussion regarding "mid-cycle" change requests (i.e. grantee needing to change details of grant because of changing circumstances): Board voted to enable the TCF officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Treas., and Sec.) to resolve any mid-cycle grant modifications as requested.

Jan noted that we still need to have an annual meeting – this could happen on the same day as the awards ceremony in June. Todd noted that moving the date of the meeting will require a Bylaws change (the Bylaws currently state that the annual meeting of the TCF shall be on the same date as Town Meeting). Lisa, Melody and Todd all volunteered to help re-write the Bylaws. Cathy will also be part of that working group. These proposed changes also need to go to the Select Board for approval.

Cathy recommended that we do another round of follow-up with some 2020 grants as there are still Covid restrictions on some grants being used. Jan offered to help Cathy with contacting people.

Discussion regarding number of donation appeals per year: Jan recommended we do a December appeal this year, and see how it works. Lisa suggested noting on the insert that there will only be one appeal this year; this will need to be advertised so that people can plan accordingly. Jan offered to re-write the appeal letter. Volunteers will staple the letter and envelopes for the *Tales* insert.

There was some discussion as to whether to allow mid-year grant applications; discussion ensued and the committee agreed that this would not be a good idea. People need to plan ahead so that we can keep the grant funding cycle as it is planned.

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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.)

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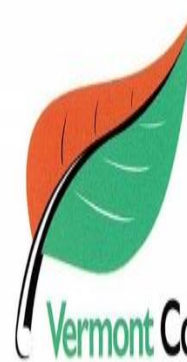
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Food Baskets**

**Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 AM until 11:00 AM**

**in the basement of the  
Tinmouth Community Church**

These items will be used to fill 25 or so food baskets for less fortunate families in town, who really appreciate your generosity. Or you can drop things off at the Town Office anytime between now and then. The Mill River Union High School National Honor Society is helping with the Christmas Basket effort.

*Thank you for your help!!!*

**Please see front page for details.**



You are welcome to join the  
Tinmouth Community Church  
for a very special  
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service  
on Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
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*Season's Greetings*



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