

TINMOUTH EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

March 15, 2022

Minutes

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

Present in-person: Meadow Squier, Rainbow Squier

Present via Zoom: Lothar Schmelzenbach, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbough, Melody Squier, Emma Weatherhogg, Logan Birdsall

Guests in-person: Gail Fallar

Guests via Zoom: Nelson Jaquay

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by convener Meadow Squier

Review the Agenda - See Attached 1

Approval or meeting minutes from January 18th meeting

Rainbow moved to approve minutes, Emma seconded. Committee voted and minutes were approved.

Working Group Reports

Events Working Group Report

Meadow reported on the 18th Events Working Group meeting:

1. Group is making great progress in planning Tinmouth day. A schedule is being made, a band has been scheduled, the school art teacher will work with students to create a falcon that can be used in the parade.
2. Nelson and Rainbow shared that the conservation commission has been discussing a landscape photo contest, with prizes, that could be a part of Tinmouth Day as well.
3. Melody asked about other ways of highlighting local artists as part of either town day or another event. Rainbow shared that the Vermont Arts Council has grants for installations and events. Meadow mentioned that a local artist market could be a part of a future Fall Festival.
4. Rainbow shared she had just learned about the Rutland Social Tinkering Club, who are focusing on how to get people together after covid and connecting diverse groups of people.
5. Emma brought up the importance of continue spreading the word about Town Day, and Meadow added that the next working group meeting will focus on defining volunteer tasks so we can start reaching out to the community to help with the event.

The next Events Working Group meeting will be April 5th at 7pm via zoom.

Mutual Aid Working Group

Sherry reported on the March 5th Mutual Aid Working Group meeting:

1. The group has begun reading and editing the revision to the Operator's Manual that Deb Thompson and Grant Reynolds had begun. They read the first 9 pages last meeting, and will read about 10 pages per meeting going forward. Some information in the manual will have to be skipped until a decision about town meeting is made.
2. The group is also working on developing a meal train that can be put together quickly to help community members.

3. Revising the phone book will be next on the agenda after the Operator's Manual, and calling every number in the book and confirming businesses will be a necessary part of that process.
4. Community members are being contacted to write additions to the manual, such as information about the Emerald Ash Borer, ticks and Lyme disease, the plant sale, the town's wifi hotspot, and the town's hiking trails.

Next Mutual Aid Working Group meeting not yet set.

Research and Development Working Group

Rainbow reported on the two working group meetings that have taken place since the last E&I committee meeting.

1. The group began discussions around worker/affordable housing. Research around the housing crisis and how other communities are tackling the problem will be the first steps. Rainbow mentioned the recent Seven Days article, and Kim the Brave Little State podcast both about the housing crisis.
2. A smaller group is reviewing an older version of a town survey, and developing a new one.
3. Group is discussing ways to support local farmers and incentivize new farmers. Gail shared resources with the group, and the group is looking into how other towns and the state are supporting existing and perspective farmers.
4. Rainbow will be bringing topics discussed in the working group to Thursday's Planning Commission meeting.
5. The town has a democracy intern from UVM, and one of his tasks will be to look at how other town's survey residents. Perhaps combining ARPA surveying with other information we want to collect.

The next Research and Development Working Group meeting will be April 12th.

Other Business

1. Nelson asked about the structure of the committee and working groups. The committee meetings occur every other month, and while meetings are open to the public the committee consists of a set number of members. The working groups meet every month and all members of the community are welcome to join.
2. Logan reported that Micheal Fannin asked the committee for support in reaching out to community members about establishing emergency call centers – homes with backup power supplies that would be willing to offer their landlines in the case of emergency during power outages. Mutual Aid Working group will invite Micheal to their next meeting to discuss this proposition further.
3. Kim and Sherry will on another education piece about backup batteries for landlines that need regular replacement.
4. Nelson brought up the importance of working out how elderly and at-risk community members will be cared for in case of extended power outages.
5. Logan will post dates of all working group meetings on Front Porch Forum and town calendar.

Next Committee Meeting

Next committee meeting date was set for May 17th, 2022.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Logan Birdsall

Logan Birdsall, Secretary

ATTACHED 1

Tinmouth Equity and Inclusion Committee
Tuesday, March 15th, 2022
7:00 PM
Town Office
Draft Agenda

This meeting will be in person at the Town Office, and available virtually. Masks are optional.

To participate via teleconferencing please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone at

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97744928600?pwd=Y1dYcmxNS0dPKzV5NnBzZ2JZMXh0UT09>

Meeting ID: 977 4492 8600

Passcode: 218462

If this link doesn't work, please contact the town office by email tinmouthtown@vermontel.net and you will be forwarded the link.

You can also dial in using your telephone. This is NOT a toll free number.

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York) Meeting ID: 977 4492 8600 Passcode: 218462

Welcome

Call to order

Review minutes

Review Agenda

Working Group Reports

- Events Working Group
- Mutual Aid Working Group
- Research and Development Working Group

Others

Set next meeting date