

TALES OF TINMOUTH

June 2022
Vol. 36 Number 6

Tinmouth
Vermont

Editors' Notes: *Summer is speeding right along ~ take time to enjoy sunny days, take an evening walk, a dip in a cool stream, reading a book.*

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

~ Tinmouth Community Fund June Events ~

by Jan Krantz

The Tinmouth Community Fund (TCF) will be hosting a special **Awards Event on Thursday June 2nd, beginning at 6:30 pm, at the Community Center. All TCF 2022 grant and scholarship recipients will be announced at this event.** This includes Community Grants, Small Business Grants, K-12 Scholarships, and Continuing Education Scholarships. We ask that anyone who applied for a grant or scholarship this year, please be present in-person or virtually for this event. We will have remote access available. Please contact Gail at tinmouthtown@vermontel.net for the meeting link. Thank you!

TCF will also have a short **Annual Meeting** as part of this event, and refreshments will be served. All are welcome even if you did not submit an application this year! We hope you will join us on June 2nd at 6:30 pm to celebrate!

~ SAVE THE DATE ~

TINMOUTH DAY ~ JULY 9TH 2PM

By Logan Birdsall

Save the date for a fun-filled afternoon for the whole family! Festivities will start with a parade (all participants welcome), and will continue through the afternoon with games, prizes, a dunking booth, ice cream, and more! Potluck picnic dinner, community softball game and sparklers will close out the festivities.

Hope to see you there!

~ Tinmouth Green Up Thank You ~



The Green Up Committee and the Conservation Commission extend a hearty thank you to all who participated in helping clean up Tinmouth roads!

And thank you to those who continue throughout the year. Green Up bags are available at the town office, year round.

~ For Sale by the Town of Tinmouth ~

1982 John Deere 500C Back Hoe

As is where is, good for parts, has not been run recently. The last time it ran, the motor knocked LOUDLY, motor doesn't turn over - needs work. With homemade forks. Located at the Tinmouth Town Garage, 537 Route 140.

Bids are Due by 5:00 pm Thursday, June 9th – at the Tinmouth Town Office.

Bids shall be submitted to Town of Tinmouth, 515 North End Road, Tinmouth, VT 05773 or hand delivered to the Town Office, 9 Mountain View Road, Tinmouth, VT. no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 9th, 2022. No faxed or emailed bids will be accepted.

Questions and requests for additional information shall be directed to Gail Fallar, Selectboard Assistant at tinmouthtown@vermontel.net or 802-446-2498 or by calling the town garage at 802-446-9163. *The Town of Tinmouth reserves all rights to reject any and all bids, or re-bid if it's in the Town's best interest to do so.* All bids must be sealed and labeled: **Back Hoe Bid**

~ Tinmouth Plant Sale Thank you ~

By Tracy Byford



Thank you to everyone who dug, potted, moved plants, watered, made signs, hung signs and provided space for our sale.

This year we netted \$9,393 for the Tinmouth Continuing Education Scholarship Fund, a feat that would not have been possible without many dedicated volunteers.

The Tinmouth Plant Sale is anticipated by gardeners all over the region, and in addition to providing funds for Scholarships, provides a wide variety of perennials, including natives to local plant enthusiasts. Plant shopping is a fun and healthy way to spend time, and of course, watching the Tinmouth plants grow and flower is another avenue of joy.

~ Conservation Commission Vacancy ~

Nelson Jaquay has stepped down from the Conservation Commission, thank you very kindly for your service.

The Select Board is looking for volunteers who would be interested. Please contact the Town Office 802-446-2498 or a Select Board member by June 9th.

~ 2022 Tinmouth Town Wide Tag Sales ~

By Sherry Johnson

Time to save that “stuff” from spring cleaning! We are planning to have the 9th Annual Tinmouth Town Wide Tag Sales in 2022, and look forward to continued community participation. It has been our experience people travel Mountain View Road and East Road. If you “off the beaten path” so to speak and are a Tinmouth resident, we will have limited space available at the Old Fire House and The Old Creamery if you’d like to have a sale in town. Sign up early if you would like one of those spaces. We will of course, have a map with your location listed if you prefer to keep it at home.



Don’t want to have a tag sale, but the stuff is too good to toss - items can be donated at the end of August to our charity tag sale. This year the Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department will be the beneficiary.

So, please save the date – September 3rd, which is the first Saturday of the Labor Day weekend.

Although the “official time” is 9am to 3pm, this year we will mark on the tag sale map if your sale starts before 9am, is a two-day sale or is an inside sale.

Questions? Call Sherry Johnson 446-3307. If you’d like to sign up to have your tag sale placed on the map; please email your location to charles.bronk@gmail.com by August 28th.

Organizers: Sherry Johnson (446-3307) vtsjohnson@icloud.com or Tracy Byford tracyleab@gmail.com or Chuck Bronk charles.bronk@gmail.com

Grievance Hearings ~ The Board of Listers has been working on the 2022 Grand List, change of appraisal notices will be sent out soon, and Grievance Hearings will be held at a date yet to be determined in June at the Town Office. A Zoom option is available, please call the town office to arrange an appointment.

~ **Green Mountain Passport** ~

This is a Vermont State Park Visitor’s Pass Discount Program for Seniors and Veterans. To be eligible for a life-long State Parks Passport, a person must be a legal resident of Vermont the town where the application is made and either 62 years of age or older, or a veteran of the uniformed services.

Use your Green Mountain Passport for: admission to Vermont State Parks (overnight camping and other park fees are excluded); Vermont State Historic Sites: Events which are fully State sponsored.

To receive a Green Mountain Passport card, fill out an application at your local city or town clerk’s office; submit a \$2 fee to the clerk, and viola`.

~ **Speed Limit Studies** ~

By Cathy Reynolds

The Sheriff’s Department has set a speed cart on Route 140 north of Town at the Selectboard’s request. This cart is measuring the average speed of drivers. It will move to a few additional locations in Town. The Selectboard gets requests to change speed limits occasionally and this is the first step.

"State law and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) regulate the procedures for establishing effective and enforceable speed limits. Title 23 V.S.A. Section 1007 authorizes the local governing body to establish effective and enforceable speed limits on town highways at not more than 50 MPH or less than 25 MPH and to do so on the basis of a traffic engineering investigation or study. This provision mandates that any speed limit must be justified and reasonable, based on the conditions that prevail on the particular road or street being considered."

<https://localroads.vermont.gov/sites/localroads/files/files/resources/materials/Setting%20Speed%20Limits%20Guide%20Update%20August%202016.pdf>

The process involves multiple steps and documentation. The end result would be specific speed limits based on site analysis and a speed study of each section of road being considered. The new recommended speed limit would be adopted by the Selectboard with reasons, and be integrated by road section into the Town's Traffic Ordinance that legally sets the speed limit for specific sections of road. As you might imagine, this is a large task and the more sections being considered, the larger the work scope.

If you have a specific interest in delving into this issue and volunteering your time, the task will take a small committee of people with time to commit to this process, excellent writing and documentation skills, and the ability to think critically and make fair analyses of the conditions in each section. The Selectboard will consider the recommendations and if adopted they will be integrated into the Traffic Ordinance. The speed limits will then be re-posted as the new speed limits and the Sheriff’s Department can enforce them.

Gravel roads are difficult to assess, and the limit cannot be set less than 35 mph without a speed cart study. The limit is set at 35 mph on all gravel roads now for this reason.

This is a long-term project of the Selectboard. If you would like to help move it forward and have the time and required skills, please call the Town Office to volunteer.

Please Recycle or Pass Along Tales!!

~ Letter to the Editor ~

COVID Money

As most Tinmouth folks know by now, our Town has received \$177,562.07 of COVID relief money none of which has been used to ate. The Federal government has recently given the “go ahead” to towns to spend the money on anything! For those voters whom were present at the Special Town meeting on May 2nd, a “wish list” of options for spending this COVID relief money was discussed. While some present, were in favor of a pickle ball court or even a shooting range, many voters placed their little pink ‘stickums’ on “returning the money to the taxpayers. Select person Cathy Reynolds said she did not think this to be possible but promised to research this option. Cathy said that the money had to be “spent”.

I believe that the \$177,562.07 can be “returned” to all the taxpayers by spending the money on expenditures that are essential in our Budget (ie. salt, equipment that would be normally purchased, equipment repair, overtime salaries, etc.). This would not include “wish list” items. It is very thoughtful that someone in Town wishes to donate land for a pickle ball court. However, this court would require maintenance and what about the liability to the Town? A pickle ball court would not benefit ALL the taxpayers.

As far as the Emerald Ash Borer problem, David Birdsall explained that donating \$50,000.00 would only take care of one road in Town. This seems like a “drop in the bucket”. So maybe paying our Road Crew overtime as needed might be a better approach?

While some in Town are considering this as “fun money” to be spent on a “wish”, there are many others whom are struggling to make ends meet! With 8% plus Inflation, the highest in 40 years, the cost of everything is rising. This means higher food costs, higher gas and heat costs, higher clothing costs. In short, higher Energy costs drives all costs up.

While it remains to be seen if states will be able to use the relief money to actually offset taxes directly (see article “ Court: Arizona can fight rule against using COVID money for tax cuts”), the money can be used wisely in our Town to benefit ALL taxpayers! After all, the money belongs to all of us.

If there are like-minded folks in Tinmouth, please speak up and contact our Select Board!

In Earnest, *Paula M. Bonazinga*

The *Tales of Tinmouth* is also on the Town’s website (tinmouthvt.org). Look under “About”.

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

~ Regarding Using ARPA \$’s to Pay Taxpayers ~

Advice gathered from the Regional Planning Commission and the ARPA expert at the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, strongly discourages sending checks to taxpayers. First, the money is supposed to be used for the “provision of government services.” Writing checks to taxpayers is not a normal government service. Second, it doesn’t stack up with the intent of the ARPA funding and it isn’t forward facing for the long-term stability of the town. In addition, it would provide financial benefit to many who definitely do not need it, not just to those negatively economically impacted by the pandemic. Ultimately, the Selectboard has all the decision authority on how to spend the funds.

Here is a copy of VLCT’s ARPA planning framework for reference:



The Select Board is going to appoint a committee to research a number of suggestions for spending the ARPA money.

If you would like to serve on this committee, please contact a Select Board member or call the Town Office at 446-2498 or email tinmouthtown@vermontel.net to volunteer by June 9th.

~ Helpful Items for Loan ~

Someone getting a new hip or knee? Or just needs some help getting around? The Town Office has walkers – two wheels and four wheels; crutches, a potty seat, a potty chair (commode), and a wheel chair to loan.

We even have a high chair.

Please call 446-2498 to make arrangements.

~ Nature Notes ~

Leaves have reached the top of the mountains, lilacs and dandelions have come and gone, gardens are planted, corn is up, 40 shades of green are everywhere!!

There are LOTS OF TICKS – beware, be careful.



June 1, 2022

To the Tinmouth Community,

The last day of school is the 13th of June. Where did the time go?

The students have grown academically throughout the year. They have made strides in math and reading thanks to the diligence and expertise of teachers and support staff. But mostly, students grew due to their own perseverance and hard work.

Our sixth graders are ready for middle school. Most were ready to go in January but patiently bid their time while learning to calculate fractions and exponents, complete book reviews and watershed projects.

The staff is very grateful to our Winter Sports Program and Four Winds volunteers as well as the impromptu volunteering that took place throughout the school year. It's challenging to describe the difference you have made but you touched the future of each child you have worked with. **Thank you!**

Please remember to have students read throughout the summer. Twenty minutes of quiet reading in the evening before bedtime is a great way to unwind after a lengthy summer day. When children take a hiatus over the summer months, they generally fall two reading levels behind what they achieved by the end of school. The children's library at the Community Center's double doors will be restocked regularly during the summer months. The Tinmouth library and the Rutland library are available to check out books free of charge as well.

Additionally, be sure to check out the book review by Fiona Ricketts included in this issue of Tinmouth Tales. The book she reviewed, *Bug Boys*, is currently available in our new Children's Library!

Thank you for your support throughout the year! Have a safe and healthy summer and don't forget to read!

Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker
Principal
Tinmouth Mountain School

Book Review ~ *Bug Boys* by Laura Knetzger
Summary and recommendation By Fiona Ricketts

This book is about two bug boys named, Rhino-B and Stag-B. These two bugs go on wild adventures. The book is filled with many short stories about the bug boys, each story is not connected to the next. On one adventure they went to a beehive to retrieve the bee crown from the termites. They also go on a quest to a big cocoon to get older, but unfortunately, nothing happens. All of the adventures or quests are very different and leave you

wanting to read more. What is really great is that the bug boys overcome so many of their problems together.

I would recommend this book to anyone who likes a funny story and enjoys learning about different ways to solve problems through the bug's different adventures. Also, the author keeps you on the edge of your seat because you never know what the next adventure will be for the bug boys. Oh! I almost forgot it's a graphic novel!

~ **Nature Photo Contest** ~
By Rainbow Squier

The Tinmouth Conservation Commission is inviting you to get out into the wilds of Tinmouth and photograph one of your favorite places in Town. We are hosting our first ever "Nature photo contest" to celebrate the natural beauty that surrounds us! Here are the details:

-Participants can submit one photo each

-It must be taken within Tinmouth

-Categories include:

-Scenic landscapes

-Interesting shapes found in nature

-Creatures of the wild

-The submission deadline is June 13th and can be emailed to r.squiert@gmail.com (if you don't have access to a computer and you still want to submit a photo call 446-9529 and we will figure something out)

-Photos will be displayed with a projector at Tinmouth Town Day where they will be voted on and winners will be announced.

-The top photo will be highlighted on the main page of the town website. All others will be added to an album on the website with credits given to the photographers. You can opt out of having your photo put on the website if you choose to. Other fun prizes will be awarded to our younger contestants!

Please email Rainbow at r.squiert@gmail.com to get a submission form!

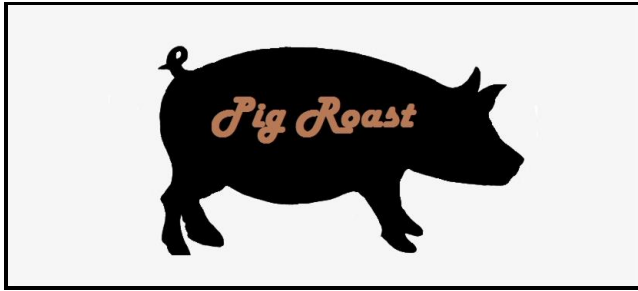
Be sure to suit up for ticks before adventuring into the woods! Happy photo taking, we can't wait to see what you find!

~ **Community News** ~

The Select Board and the Tinmouth Town Clerk would like to send Kudos to **Ronnie Crossman** for the clean-up at the town office (think scrubber and Dawn dishwashing detergent) that he did on his own time, after a recent incident that occurred while the town trucks were being washed next to the town office.

It was greatly appreciated. *Thank you!*

Kudos as well to the Tinmouth Garden Club for all the beautiful flower beds around the town office, school, and welcome triangle. And to Kim Gaylord for keeping the Church looking lovely!! Thank you all so much.



When:

Saturday, June 11, 2022 (4 pm-5:30 pm) Rain or Shine

Where:

86 West Shore Drive

Why:

Fundraiser to benefit the Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project

\$20.00/ticket (pre-ordered) \$25.00/ticket (walkups)

The menu includes Slow Roasted Pork, Creamy Homemade Macaroni and Cheese made with Grafton Cheddar Cheese, Green Salad, Coleslaw, Homemade Chewy Brownies (Gluten Free available)

All you can eat!

If it rains or you prefer take out, please bring Tupperware to take your food home

Tickets are limited, to avoid disappointment, preorder by contacting Sherry Johnson @ vtsjohnson@icloud.com , 446-3307, or 64 White Birch Drive; or Laurel Swenson @ alam2@cox.net , 446-2557 or 70 West Shore Drive

This event was a great success last year, and a good time was had by all.

Catered by CherryRail Farm
cherryrailfarm@gmail.com

~ Ash Tree Protection Services ~

By David Birdsall, Tree Warden

More good information about trying to save Ash trees from the Emerald Ash Borer.

<https://vtcommunityforestry.org/sites/default/files/pictures/eabtreatment.pdf>

Here is a list of companies that can treat Ash trees to protect them from the Emerald Ash Borer.

https://vtcommunityforestry.org/sites/default/files/pictures/ash_protection_services_contact_list.pdf



TINMOUTH CHURCH

~ Tinmouth Community Church ~

"How many times do I have to tell you!" Yes, I think my parents said that to me a couple of times growing up.

"How many times do I have to tell you!" I would like to think that I did not say that to our children, but I know I have said it to my wife!

"How many times do I have to tell you!" That's what I think of saying to my elderly mother, but don't. Her repetition is a symptom of her dementia. Life is confusing enough without me adding to it. The impulses of impatience and annoyance are mine. I can do something about them. She can't.

Remember in school the saying, "Repetition is the mother of learning?" Turns out, my parents were helping me grow up. Sue has been doing much the same. Mom is refining my character even more. It's called in religious circles, "spiritual formation." It has a long history in the history of religion. Whether we are formally religious or not, the formation of our spirit, that is, our person, is always going on. We are always in process of becoming. The question, of course, is, "What kind of person are we becoming?" "What spirit are we being formed by and formed into?"

"How many times do I have to tell you?" It's the voice of the Holy Spirit this time. There's no impatience in it, no annoyance, just a caring reminder to make love my aim, for God aims to form us into God's loving likeness. Thus, the gifts - of parental training; for some, of being parents themselves who have to answer "Why?" a thousand times; of friends, partners, and spouses with whom to work out our sanctification; for the trials of life that refine us still more; and for a Holy Spirit loving us into becoming the love that is our true and best self.

Blessings,

Pastor John

Rev. John Hardman-Zimmerman
(802) 282-7532 (cell, preferred)
(802) 884-8249 (parsonage)
hzfam@hotmail.com

~ Tinmouth's Website ~

Tinmouthvt.org - There is lots of information about the town on its website, take a few minutes and check it out!!

~ Meeting Highlights ~

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

As the Select Board asked that their minutes only provide the minimum required, everyone is encouraged to attend their meetings either in person or via zoom for full details.

Select Board ~ 5/12/2022

Members present in-person: Cathy Reynolds; Members present via Zoom: Kevin Eaton and Meadow Squier

Others present: Via Zoom Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Stan Wilbur – Project Manager, Wilk Paving Guy, Heather McMahon, Rick Fallar, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, David Birdsall, and Nancy Birdsall; In-person- Jack Butterfoss, Gary Butterfoss, Hollis Squier, Michael Fallar, and Gail Fallar-SB Assistant

Citizen Input: None at this point in the meeting.

Public Works Facilities Update: Stan reported on the well, drilled over 600 feet with ½ gallon per minute so it had to be fracked, still only 1 gallon per minute, but there may be enough static elevation to allow trucks to be washed one at time. He is still waiting for information from Morton Buildings before proceeding with the state Fire Safety Permit – needs mechanical, plumbing and electrical plans. No indication of when the building will be coming. Eric will call as he needs plans for the power and plumbing location in the foundation, also needs to know when the foundation company will be coming, grading is nearly finished.

Cathy inquired about passing the Project Manager torch. Stan advised there needs to be someone on site, he will only be available for questions, and there is a need to appoint someone to work with Morton Buildings.

Board and Stan discussed the zoning permit application for the town garage – hearing is the 16th, Stan will not be available as he will be at the Senior Games in Florida. As one member cannot make a decision for the Board, the Board decided to hold a special meeting at the same time as the Zoning Board of Adjustment on the 16th in case a decision had to be made regarding conditions.

Stan advised he had emailed with Greybar (a salt/sand shed vendor) about the salt/sand shed, advising there was a grant, but it will take time to materialize.

Board wished Stan good luck at the Senior Games – he plays 80+ basketball.

Paving Grant: SBA advised the town had been awarded a \$200,000 state paving grant, town has 30 months to spend it.

Paving Bids: Cathy opened the bids, read the results:

Fuller Sand & Gravel bid \$74.76 per ton, with shouldering and restoration total bid \$341,649

Pike Industries bid \$93.50 per ton, with shouldering and restoration total bid was \$445,819

Wilk Paving bid \$78.15 per ton, with shouldering and restoration total bid was \$366,370.

Board agreed to award paving to Fuller, per the price, but much discussion ensued about the price of paving increasing, whether to pave or not pave this year, would price be higher next year, Fuller included a volatility clause. Spend \$100,000 this year and save grant for next year? Board voted to wait two weeks – until the next SB meeting on the 24th. Later in the meeting, after Eric texted Tom Fuller, who said he could do it as soon as the town wanted and was willing to wait for payment, Board re-opened the discussion. Should the paving project be reduced for this year? Board voted to proceed with \$100,000, but still revisit the question on May 24th.

Butterfoss Driveway Permit: 713 Route 140 – Board apologized for confusion regarding the need for a permit – explained that as it was a change of use, a permit is required. Much discussion about the process, the need for a huge Balm of Gilead tree to be cut to upgrade the existing access, that the applicant would be responsible for its removal (the town does not pay for that) and grinding the stump below grade, no culvert is needed. Board voted to grant permit with conditions.

Speed Limit Reduction: Board discussed speed study on Route 140 – should it be reduced to 45 miles per hour? Board voted to instruct SBA to request formal speed study from the Rutland County Sheriff's Department.

Firewood Bids: Cathy opened bids for 6 wood piles cut at the town garage site.

Paul Herrick bid \$351.20 for pile #2 and \$252.80 for pile #3, Eric Buffum bid \$206 for pile #2, Rick Fallar bid \$125 on pile #2 and \$80 for pile #3. Paul was awarded piles #2 and #3 for a total of \$604. Rick was the only bidder on piles #1, #4, #5, and #6, so he was awarded those piles for a total of \$300. Board voted to award piles to highest bidders.

Highway ~ Eric reported the culvert for North End Road project was ordered, should arrive June 15th. Josh Carvajal, state stream alteration specialist, renewed the state's permit, needs to inspect one week before work begins.

Old Town Garage Repairs –Eric noted it needs: two man-doors replaced (one inside and one outside); rear sliding doors need replacing – hopefully with overhead doors; roof leaks repaired; and add rafters 2' on center; plus the engineers report should be checked for any other items. Board discussed need for a cost estimate/scope of work. Eric volunteered to prepare a draft for the SB's May 24th meeting. It was noted there may be a wait to find a contractor.

Stop Sign Mtn. View and Rte. 140: Eric reported paint is available for \$29 a gallon, Sherry Johnson reported there is a reflective strip available for the post. Board advised road crew get it done at time allows.

Clerks of the Works: Board discussed what authority the Clerks of the Works had/needed, who can decide what, when does the SB need to be involved, change orders, \$'s authorized, etc. Board decided they could have an emergency meeting if one was needed for a big decision. Board voted to authorize Cathy and Eric, as co-clerks, of the works to make minor decisions, any extra or unexpected cost will go to the full SB, both Cathy and Eric would have to agree, if they disagree, SB will decide.

Old Town Back Hoe: Board voted to dispose of the old John Deere back hoe as it is not in running condition, by advertising and taking bids at the June 9th SB meeting.

Chain Saw Practice: Board reviewed draft #2, as presented by the Safety and Wellness Committee. After brief discussion and an amendment regarding the last sentence, Board voted to adopt as amended.

Septic Tank: Eric reported the proposed septic tank was 4000 gallons and would cost \$15,000 and would need a crane to unload it. After brief discussion, Board decided the engineer needed to be called to see if a smaller one could be used instead and if the state permit needed to be amended.

Wood Chips for School Playground: Board discussed road crew trucking wood chips for the two play grounds at the school – Eric advised it would take 8 or 9 tandem loads. Question arose about who was going to spread them, whether the school should reimburse the town fuel. It was noted that the playground was built with a federal grant and that the town had to maintain it in perpetuity. Board had agreed last fall to the trucking, but not spreading. Board voted to follow through with that agreement, but may not promise it in the future.

Rutland Regional Transportation Council: Sherry, as newly appointed representative, reported that most of the business did not apply to a small town like Tinmouth, such as bridges and pedestrian issues, but she did gather information about reflective tape on stop signs, and is willing to continue as Tinmouth's rep.

Financial ~ Board reviewed financial reports and approved paying bills and orders.

New Business ~

ARPA Committee: Board decided to appoint a committee to research suggestions made at the special town meeting regarding the American Recovery Plan Act - \$177,000+ for Tinmouth. Holly Ross and Michael Fallar volunteered to serve, Board will look for more members and appoint at its June 9th meeting. SB wants a plan, to have the committee seriously look at a few of those suggestions, look at proposed costs, etc. and report back to the Board.

Listers' Request for Extension to Complete Grand List: After brief discussion, Board voted to approve Listers request for a 30-day extension to complete the 2022 Grand List.

Feedback Form: Board reviewed three forms: **One** – security concern regarding the Select Board Chair publicizing when the town clerk would be away on vacation; **Two** - town clerk giving kudos to Ronnie Crossman for going above and beyond for cleaning oil from the side of the town office after it was inadvertently sprayed when the town trucks were being washed; and **Three**- concern regarding the Select Board's actions regarding a special meeting and lack of communication with the SBA. Much discussion on # 1 and #3.

Michael asked to express a **Citizen's Concern**. He was advised that that part of the agenda had already been covered, he arrived too late. With the Board's permission he was allowed to speak briefly. He was concerned about lack of notice given for the SB the meeting held on April 24th. And he raised concerns with the SB Chair attending the special town meeting with Covid. Meadow, as Health Officer, advised that CDC protocols were followed.

Mail/Correspondence: Rutland Economic Development/Chamber of Commerce is looking for town events to publicize, Meadow volunteered to contact Olivia Lyons.

Select Board ~ Special Meeting 5/16/22

Highlights from unapproved minutes.

Members present in-person: Cathy Reynolds and Kevin Eaton
Members present via Zoom: Meadow Squier
Others present: Via Zoom: Sherry Johnson and Kim Harbaugh
In-person: Gail Fallar-SB Assistant

The purpose of this special meeting was to meet in conjunction with the Zoning Board of Adjustment in the event the SB needed to make a decision regarding the Conditional Use Permit application for the town garage.

Options for screening the new town garage from David and Carleen Eaton's property was discussed, no determination was made, need prices for fencing/trees.

The Board took no action other than to schedule a special meeting with David and Carleen Eaton at 5:00 at their house, after which both parties would attend the ZBA's meeting at 7:00.

(Note – The SB meeting on the 23rd was cancelled, as it was determined that the ZBA had to review the application first – and the SB was already scheduled to meet on the 24th.)

Select Board ~ 5/24/22

Highlights from unapproved minutes.

Members present in-person: Kevin Eaton, Cathy Reynolds, and Meadow Squier

Others present: Via Zoom Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Stan Wilbur – Project Manager, Rick Smyrski – Morton Buildings, Rick Fallar, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, and Pat Psholka

In-person- Michael Fallar, David Birdsall, Nancy Gucker Birdsall, and Gail Fallar-SB Assistant

Cathy called the meeting to order and reminded everyone of the rules and procedures adopted by the Select Board for meetings.

Citizen Input: Sherry spoke about the importance of following the rules and procedures and no one speaking for more than 3 minutes.

Nancy expressed concern with lack of civil discourse, support of the 3 minute rule, and encouraged more direct communication.

Michael also supported the rules and procedure and noted it applied to the Board as well as members attending the meeting, expressed concern that citizens had to provide input on agenda items without hearing the Board discuss them first, and was appreciative of the opportunity to speak.

Public Works Facilities Update: Stan deferred to Rick from Morton. Rick reported the foundation is on track, Eric has it roughed in. Progress is slower than hoped, the goal is to have it constructed before winter of 2022. He has the electrical plans, but has to re-solicit the plumbing and heating work – that is causing the delay, hopes to have it fixed by the end of the month. Stan noted the town needs the electrical, plumbing and heating mechanicals so it can apply for the state’s Fire and Safety Permit, asked who soon the town could expect to receive them. Rick advised he needed to do more research – suggested doctoring the plans for the permit – submit the engineering after. Stan advised he would send the permit application to Cathy to re-sign and suggested including a cover letter.

Board inquired about start time, they had been advised it would be June. Rick advised the building would be delivered the third week in August and it would be complete by the end of September.

Concrete cannot be poured until the plumbing and heating details are worked out – pipes need to go under the slab. Electrical connection was then discussed – Rick advised it was not Morton responsibility to call GMP. Board wanted options regarding new service (having two meters) or running the power from the old town garage. Who is the electrical contractor – will the town have one and Morton have another? No answer.

Board discussed VLCT PACIF’s (town’s insurance company) **review of the Morton contract**, with regards to construction insurance. They suggested asking Morton to name and include the Town on their policy. Stan noted that his read of the contract means that Morton owns the building until they turn it over to the town, and so the town is protected, but it would be prudent to get a quote for the town for construction insurance and ask Morton to be added as an insured.

Conditional Use Zoning Permit: Cathy reported the Zoning Board of Adjustment had issued a permit for the

town garage conditioned on the Select Board working with the Eaton family to resolve operational issues.

Speed Limit Reduction: Board discussed speed study on Route 140 – should it be reduced to 45 miles per hour? Board voted to instruct SBA to request formal speed study from the Rutland County Sheriff’s Department.

Highway ~

Eric reviewed ‘to-do’ list for road crew while he is on vacation, have already started one of the projects. Most projects are working on the stormwater segments required to be brought into conformance per the MRGP permit. Eric noted he will be staying in town and available if the road crew needs him – he advised that between Ron and Glenn they have 3 times the experience more experience than he has, and that they can handle whatever comes along.

Old Town Garage: Eric asked the Board to review the 2018 construction engineer’s report regarding the old town garage. The SB needs to figure out what needs to be done before a request for proposals can be written, brief discussion of basic needs, use of the building once the new garage is constructed, the need to keep covered space (too expensive to replace a 40’ x 60’).

Paving Bids: Board revisited 5/12/22 decision to spend only \$100,000 this year. As there was no good answer to what the price would be next year, Board voted to increase spending for paving to \$300,000 for FY23.

Eric requested permission to order the **septic holding tank**, still needs to check with OCE regarding specs – cost of regular is \$1,500, with more specs it’s \$2,200. Board agreed by consensus to authorize Eric to order the standard tank.

Old Town Back Hoe: Board reviewed request for bids, edited a bit, then approved.

SB wished Eric a Happy Vacation.

New Business ~

Gail, as Treasurer, requested the Board again **grant waivers** for late filed homestead declaration penalties. After brief discussion, Board voted to approve.

Nelson Jaquay resigned from the Conservation Commission. SB thanked him for his service, will post notice of **vacancy**, appoint someone on June 9th.

Old Cemetery Mowing: Gail advised that long time lawn mower John Squier would no longer be able to mow the Crampton or Sawyer cemeteries.

Girls on the Run: SBA advised that the School’s Girls on the Run group has volunteered to clean up the Sawyer cemetery. SB thanked them for their efforts.

Feedback Form: None received.

Member’s Concern: Speed cart locations were discussed, as well as the need to advise the public that the Select Board had asked the County Sheriff’s Department for speed studies. Other roads were discussed, Kevin

expressed concern with the speed limit going past the town garage/transfer station.

Mail/Correspondence: Gail shared a *Tales* Letter to the Editor from Paula Bonazinga regarding the ARPA money, and an email from Judy Gilmore regarding a state transportation grant opportunity.

Executive Session: Board moved into Executive Session at 8:29 to discuss a personnel issue. Board exited at 8:38, no action taken.

Planning Commission ~ 5/19/22

Members present in-person: Michael Fallar, Larry Carabeau, Judy Gilmore, and Andy Gilmore

Members present via Zoom: Vito Macaluso, Bob Lloyd, Pat Psholka, Rainbow Squier and Kim Harbaugh

Others present: in-person Susan Mandel, Glen Mandel, and Gail Fallar, Secretary ~ via zoom: Sherry Johnson

Susan and her son Glen presented a map for a proposed subdivision of the Mandel/Morgan property on Rte 133 – Morgan Road. The parcel contains about 50 acres, they would like to create two lots, one with about 11 acres and one with the remainder of the parcel. There is a deeded right of way already in existence to their lot and property beyond which lies in Ira. After brief discussion, members voted to give preliminary approval and allow them to proceed with a surveyor.

Andy advised the Gilmore Farm may not subdivide as they have been told that the state will not allow use of the existing septic system and spring, so that if they subdivided, they would have to build a new septic and drill a well. They can build if they do not subdivide.

No updates on other proposed subdivisions – still waiting for surveyors to complete work.

Ed Bove, RRPC, will attend the next meeting on June 16th to begin discussion regarding updating the Town Plan, which needs to be done by 2025.

Rainbow noted she had not watched the last meeting which dealt with affordable housing, will do so before the next meeting. Members agreed to discuss again if needed.

Conservation Commission ~ 4/18/22

With thanks to Chuck Bronk, Sec.

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

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

Ongoing Business:

Rainbow presented an update to the draft description of the Photo Contest for the Commission's review. She reported that several classes at Tinmouth Mountain School are excited about the contest and intend to make submissions. Since some of the students are non-residents, it was decided to drop the requirement that submissions must be by a Tinmouth resident. The photos

must be taken within the bounds of Tinmouth. There will be three categories: Scenic landscapes, Interesting shapes found in nature, and Creature of the wild. Rainbow suggested that submissions be due by June 13th so that they could be shown/judged at Town Day on July 9th. Rainbow agreed to edit her draft and provide it to Doug Fontein for review and submission to the *Tales of Tinmouth* for publication.

Rainbow apologized for being away the day of Green Up. She will commit to doing a section of road beforehand. Nelson agreed to be the School contact and to once again encourage students and their parents to participate. Doug will write the post for Front Porch Forum. Chuck reviewed the purchase of 40 large and 40 small orange safety vests with funds from the Tinmouth Community Fund and solicited assistance from the members of the Commission to ink in the outlined "Tinmouth Green Up" on the vests. Rainbow agreed to prepare the Prize Category poster, as she has done in the past and deliver it to Doug before hand. Doug will be on site at 8:30 AM. Ed reported that he could use additional scoops for the ice cream at 11:00 AM. It was agreed that since Vermont Coffee Roasters are not a sponsor this year, we would not offer free coffee to participants. As in past years, we will record number of bags and tires and Doug's trailer will be available for large items.

After discussion, a workday was set for the 21st of May. This was to work on the Tinmouth Ridge trail, bog bridges and switchbacks. A number of dangerous trees were removed by David Birdsall and Mo Squier in the old orchard area. Doug listed the materials needed for the repair of the bog bridges. These included 2"x 8"x8' hemlock boards and pressure treated 6"x6"s. He reported that the proposed switchbacks are flagged and would require the following for inclusion on the trail: chainsaws, loppers and battery powered hedge trimmers.

Noting no other business to conduct, Rainbow suggested that our next regular meeting be set for June 13, 2022 at 7:30 PM to allow for the review of Photo Contest Submissions

Equity and Inclusion Committee ~ 5/17/22

With thanks to Logan Birdsall, Sec.

Members present: in-person Meadow Squier, Todd Denis, Michael Fallar ~ via Zoom: Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Rainbow Squier, Melody Squier, Emma Weatherhogg, Logan Birdsall ~ Others in-person: Gail Fallar.

An issue arose over various members not receiving emails from the working groups and committee members, Meadow will check the google group lists are correct.

Three Working Group Reports

Mutual Aid Working Group

This group is continuing to edit the Tinmouth Operator's Manual. They are adding new sections to the

manual, such as information about the town pizza oven, ticks, and the Tinmouth Mountain Cabin.

They will be reaching out to a number of people to review sections that pertain to their work, town positions, and/or expertise.

Michael Fannin came to a meeting and asked if the group would help spread the word and encourage volunteers for his proposed emergency phone network – homes with generators who could offer their phones to community members for emergencies only during power outages. Logan is working on a letter which the working group will present to the E&I committee for approval.

Meadow asked if the group would consider adding the statement of inclusion to the beginning of the manual.

The next Mutual Aid Working Group meeting will be Monday June 6 at 7pm.

Research and Development Working Group

This group is continuing to brainstorm ideas around affordable housing, currently reviewing what doesn't or hasn't worked in the past. Rainbow brought some of the questions the group had been discussing to the Planning Commission meeting. Michael reported that at the following meeting they discussed the ideas and he thinks it is a difficult project to attempt in Tinmouth.

Gail provided the group with past public opinion surveys, and the group is reviewing them and working to develop a new survey. Perhaps the E&I survey can be combined with the upcoming Planning Commission survey.

The group is also having discussions around how to help existing town farmers and encourage new farmers. In past surveys agricultural development has been identified as a type of development residents would like to see in town. One idea the group is discussing is a round table of farmers in town to hear from them on this subject.

Meadow brought up matchmaking programs that link landowners to farmers, such as Vermont Land Link (vermontlandlink.org) and Todd shared that there are similar programs run by the Vermont Land Trust. The committee then discusses the intersection of the need for affordable housing and farmland – that if local landowners lease their lands to farmers, where would those farmers live?

This led to Rainbow defining that the working group is approaching the concept of affordable housing not like a state program but more as what are solutions to housing issues that will work in Tinmouth and address Tinmouth's needs, i.e. Auxiliary housing, rentals, and alternative housing solutions.

The next Research and Development Working Group meeting will be Tuesday June 14th at 7pm.

Events Working Group Report

The start time of Tinmouth Day has been changed from 10am to 2pm.

This group has been discussing the size of Tinmouth Day – whether or not we want the event to involve fundraising or be a completely free event. Being so close to the event, this year's Tinmouth Day will probably be a bit more low-key than perhaps future events could be. One goal of the group is for Tinmouth Day to be as accessible as possible, which is also why they feel inclined to keep the event free.

The group is discussing how to get more involvement and bring in more people to plan future events.

A Facebook page for Tinmouth Events has been created, with Theresa Butts as administrator.

At the last meeting, the group discussed whether BYOB will be possible at Tinmouth Day. Rainbow shared that there is a form on the Community Center rental page, and that the sheriff will need to be informed if alcohol will be present,

Upcoming events discussed by group include a fall or winter vendor event, and a Halloween costume party in collaboration with the Parent Club's Trunk or Treat, and a New Neighbor event.

Sherry recommended we reach out to the sheriff for traffic control during the Tinmouth Day parade.

The next Events Working Group meeting will be Tuesday June 7th, at 7 pm.

State Webinar Series

Vermont League of Towns and Cities has produced multiple equity and inclusion webinars. Meadow will email out a link.

Statement of Inclusion and Welcome Sign

Meadow shared that she saw a welcome sign in another town's office, and proposed to the committee that we pursue a sign as well. Michael thought that should be up to the town for a vote, Meadow will look into protocol. The Research and Development Working Group will look into what other towns have.

Zoom links

When meetings conflict unavoidably, the working groups who meet virtually will provide new zoom links for their meetings. To avoid confusion, we can write "contact (working group member) for the link" when posting to FPF and town website.

Next E & I Committee meeting date was set for July 19th at 7pm.

Tinmouth Community Fund Board ~ 5/18/22

With thanks to Cathy Reynolds

In person – Todd Dennis, Jan Krantz, Cathy Reynolds in person, Casey Voigtlaender, Melody Squier, Asha McCullough via Zoom. In person, Gail Fallar, public.

Plant Sale revenue was \$9,393. Plant Sale needs more assistance in future years. Thanks to all who helped. Funds go to the Continuing Education Scholarship Fund.

Jan reviewed the Final Grant Report list identifying who sent in their Final Grant Reports.

Tasks to be assigned and shared for managing the grants in future years:

- * Managing the google drive – Todd
- * Collecting the Final Grant Reports-assign to a Board member
- * Promoting the Grant opportunities on FPF and *Tales*, reminders that applications are due, notification of annual meeting and awards, arranging and warning the all meetings and annual meetings-President
- * Make the certificates and prepare awards for celebration
- * Organize celebration -Board member

Grant and Scholarship payouts:

Community Fund grants will be awarded via check at the awards ceremony. The Final Grant Report is our way of tracking whether or not the grant was spent appropriately. Small Business grants will now require a final report and we will request invoices with the report. A check will be presented at the awards ceremony.

Scholarship applicants will receive a certificate and instructions on our new requirement that they send us a “copy” of their bill from the program they are attending.

We will provide the scholarship check made out to the student upon receipt. Approved unanimously.

Grants:

K-12 camp awards

Melody reviewed 4 applications. Checks are made out to the camp.

Community Fund grants were reviewed and amounts allocated. \$10,150 total was allocated to grantees. Unanimously approved.

Small Business Grants - \$2,000 was allocated. Unanimously approved.

Changes to the grant process for 2023: Small business – one application per household per year, maximum small business award \$100-\$500, first time applicants will be prioritized. Unanimously approved.

Awards/Annual meeting planning: Jan reviewed last year’s agenda for the Community Fund Annual Meeting and Board members were asked to award in each category. Other tasks – Andy will set up the owl and Zoom, we need a sound tech, Board will come early to set up. Jan will publicize in *Tales* and FPF.

~ 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.

~ Tales of Tinmouth - 2nd Request ~

Tales of Tinmouth is mailed monthly to 520 households ~ residents, property owners, past residents, and friends. It is a bit dismaying that only 60 or so of those contribute to help pay for paper, printing, labels and postage – those expenses are over \$3,100 per year. The Town allows the use of their copier, but is reimbursed for all copies made (paper, labels, and printing). And we thank them for use of the town office for assembly space. There are dedicated volunteers who gather each month to fold, tape and label. No one is paid. The cost of postage and paper have both increased.

2021 expenses were \$3,125.83 and donations/grants totaled \$2,320.00. Luckily there was a bit of a balance to cover this \$896 deficit. If you are one of the **other 450** households that enjoy receiving and reading *Tales* each month, please consider sending a donation. It will be much appreciated and help keep us in print!

Thank you very kindly to the folks who have already sent a donation and words of encouragement.

Vermont’s Summer Free Fishing Day is Saturday, June 11

MONTPELIER, Vt. – Vermont’s annual, statewide Summer Free Fishing Day is Saturday, June 11 this year.

“Vermont’s Free Fishing Day gives resident and nonresident anglers the opportunity to go fishing without a license for the day in Vermont lakes and streams,” said Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Christopher Herrick. “Free Fishing Day is a great opportunity for an experienced angler to be a mentor to friends who have not gone fishing before. A day on the water could lead to a lifetime of great experiences and healthy local food.”

Vermont’s regular bass season also opens on June 11, marking the start of some of the hottest bass fishing action in the northeast. The season opens each year on the second Saturday in June and extends through the last day of November.

To learn more about fishing in Vermont or to purchase a fishing license, visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

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~ June 2022 Calendar of Events ~

TCF Annual Meeting	Thursday	2nd	6:30	Community Center
Tin. Community Fund Awards	Thursday	2nd	6:30	Community Center
Fire Department	Thursday	2nd	7:00	In-Person/Virtual
E & I Mutual Aide Wrkg Group	Monday	6th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
E&I Events Working Group	Tuesday	7th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
Select Board	Thursday	9th	7:00	Town Office /Virtual
Conservation Commission	Monday	13th	7:30	Town Office/Virtual
E & I Research & Del. Wkg Grp	Tuesday	14th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
Planning Commission	Thursday	16th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
<i>Tales of Tinnmouth Deadline</i>	Monday	20th		Don't Miss It!
Select Board (if needed)	Tuesday	28th	7:00	In-Person /Virtual

~ July 2022 Calendar of Events ~

Town Office Closed	Monday	4th	Closed to Celebrate Independence Day!
Fire Department	Thursday	7th	7:00 In-Person/Virtual
Select Board	Thursday	14th	7:00 In-Person /Virtual
Equity and Inclusion Comm.	Tuesday	19th	7:00 In-Person/Virtual
Planning Commission	Thursday	21st	7:00 In-Person/Virtual
<i>Tales of Tinnmouth Deadline</i>	Wednesday	20th	Don't Miss It!

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

~ Sunday Church Service ~ 9:00 AM ~

~ The Library is open Thursdays 2:00-5:00 PM ~



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