TINMOUTH EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

January 24, 2023

Minutes

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

Present in-person: Logan Birdsall, Michael Fallar, Lothar Schmelzenbach, Meadow Squier, Rainbow Squier

Present via Zoom: Todd Denis, Kim Harbaugh, Sherry Johnson, Melody Squier

Guests in-person: Gail Fallar

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 by convener Meadow Squier.

Review the Agenda - See Attached 1

Rainbow motioned to approve the agenda, Michael seconded, motion passed.

Review the Minutes from November 15, 2022

Michael questioned the wording of a discussion proposed last meeting, which ultimately was not added to this meetings agenda. Logan will upload the recording of that video and share with committee members for review. Editing and approval of last meeting’s minutes will be postponed until next meeting.

Open Meeting Law Discussion and Working Group Reorganization

When this committee was first formed, the working groups were created with the misunderstood intention that they could operate outside open meeting law, in order to get get more done between E&I meetings and encourage more community involvement. However, after reviewing Vermont’s open meeting law (which can be found online at: <https://outside.vermont.gov/dept/sos/Municipal%20Division/a-guide-to-open-meetings-january-2019.pdf>) the committee agreed by consensus to operate working groups according to open meeting law, which will include warning meetings and posting minutes.

The Mutual Aid Working Group is discussing moving elements of their mission under the umbrella of another town entity, such as the Fire Department should they approve it. The group will continue to discuss how to restructure the group and come to the next E&I meeting with a more concrete proposal.

The Research and Development Working Group will become inactive for the time being, and the mission of the group will be taken on by the entire committee. Should a breakout group be needed for specific projects they will operate within that Working Group.

IDEAL VT December Newsletter Discussion – See Attached 2

The group agreed by consensus to go in a circle and share their thoughts on the newsletter for 2 minutes at a time.

Work Plan/Goals For Committee For 2023

Meadow proposed members consider goals for the committee in 2023 and bring them to the next meeting. A few ideas brought up at this meeting included more discussions around topics related to equity and inclusion, efforts to engage more community members, and efforts to increase safe and effective communication.

Visual Representation Of Towns Commitment To Welcoming And Inclusion

The committee began discussing the possibility of welcome signs on the borders of town, and Meadow proposed a project to work with the community to come up with a town slogan. Meadow will check with the elementary school to see if there is a way of involving the kids. A suggestion box for the community was discussed.

Working Group Reports

The Mutual Aid Working Group continues to edit the Tinmouth Operator’s Manual.

Next Mutual Aid Working Group meeting will be held February 6th at 7:30 pm.

Members Concerns

Todd asked that at our next meeting we set aside time to discuss topics, not just provide individual reports. It was agreed by consensus that next time we will try a period or 10-15 minutes of open discussion after individual reports.

Set Next Meeting Date

Next committee meeting date was set for March 21st, at 7pm.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the Rainbow motioned to adjourn, seconded by Lothar. Motion carried, meeting was adjourned at 8:24.

Respectfully submitted,



Logan Birdsall, Secretary

**ATTACHED 1**

Tinmouth Equity and Inclusion Committee   
  
Draft Agenda  
Tuesday, January 24th, 2023  
~ 7:00 PM ~  
  
Meetings are now in person at the Town Office. If you wish 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](mailto: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 Agenda

Minutes

Open meeting law discussion and working group reorganization.

IDEAL VT December Newsletter discussion

Work plan/goals for committee for 2023

 Visual representation of towns commitment to welcoming and inclusion.

      - Welcome signs, sign for town office.

Working group reports

Members Concerns

Set next meeting date

Adjourn

**Attached 2**

Please access PDF at <https://www.tinmouthvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/The-Idealist-Vol.-1-No.-1-.pdf>