

# TALES OF TINMOUTH

March 2023  
Vol. 37 Number 3

Tinmouth  
Vermont

## Editors' Notes: *Think Spring!!*

The deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. Please email your information to *Tales of Tinmouth* (tinmouthtales@vermontel.net) or drop it off at the Town Office.

**Many, many thanks** for the donations to keep *Tales* in print. They are very much appreciated!

*Gail Fallar & Pat Psholka*

## ~ Town Meeting 2023 Last Reminder ~

The in-person and virtual (via *Zoom*) Informational Meeting is **Monday March 6<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 at the Tinmouth Community Center.

Voting will be **Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>** from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Tinmouth Community Center.

Town officers, budgets and public questions will be voted by Australian ballot. You will also vote on the school district budget and public questions.

## ~ Registering to Vote ~

You do not have to register to vote before the election. Vermont has **same-day voter registration**, meaning that if you have not previously registered to vote and want to do so on town meeting day, you can register then and there.

You do need to be a resident of the town in which you are registering to vote, and proof of that (like a utility bill).

## ~ Town Reports ~

The town reports were mailed on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Please read them and bring/use them for the Informational Town Meeting on **Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**.

A HUGE thank you to **Nancy Birdsall** for doing such a great job putting it together once again!

Apologies to **Colleen Balch** for not including her as the newest member of the Conservation Commission and to **Charles Bronk** for listing him as Charles Byford on the ARPA Committee.

## ~ Early/Absentee Ballots ~

To request an **Early/Absentee Ballot**, you must do so before **5:00 pm** on **Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**. **Voted ballots must be returned by 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**. You can call the town office to request the ballots, 446-2498.



## ~ Library News ~

*By Ruth Drachman, Librarian*



"Books may well be the only true magic", Alice Hoffman, well-known author.

Come to the Tinmouth Library and find that magic. We have many new books for you.

### New Children's books

**Just Jump In** by Christine Davis, Jack has to overcome his fear and just jump in the pool.

### New books for adults

**The Light We Carry, Overcoming in Uncertain Times** by Michelle Obama, an inspiring follow up to her popular and successful memoir.

**Good Vermonters, The Pierces of North Shrewsbury** by Karen D. Lorentz, traces the history of the Pierce family from farm family to country store operators.

The Library will be open the first Saturday of the month from 10AM until 12 Noon. Come and visit. The guest librarians will be:

**March 4<sup>th</sup> - Jan Krantz**

**April 1<sup>st</sup> - Nelson Jaquay**

**May 6<sup>th</sup> - Kristy Usher**

We are open on Thursday afternoons from 2PM until about 5PM. Miss Ruth is the Librarian on duty.



## ~ Dog Licenses Due April 1<sup>st</sup> ~

A current rabies certificate is required. You can call the Town Office if you don't know if your dog needs a shot or not. Fees are \$9 for neutered/spayed dogs and \$13 for those that are not. 50% penalty is assessed after April 1<sup>st</sup>. You can also license them by mail if you wish.

## ~ Dog & Cat Rabies Clinic ~

The Wallingford Dog & Cat Rabies Clinic is **Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.** All dogs must be on leashes. All cats must be in carriers.

Fee = \$17 each.

Grace Ma-Steenbergen, DVM  
Wallingford Town Hall 75 School Street  
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

~ **Tinmouth Community Fund 2023  
Grants and Scholarships** ~  
by Jan Krantz

It's the time of year for Tinmouth residents to consider applying for Tinmouth Community Fund (TCF) grants and scholarships. The categories and links to each application are as follows.

Community Fund Grant: <http://tinyurl.com/TCFGrantR2>

Small Business Grant: <https://tinyurl.com/TCFSBR2>

Continuing Ed Scholarship:  
<https://tinyurl.com/ContinuingEducationScholarship>

K-12 Scholarship: <https://tinyurl.com/TCFK12>

Beginning in 2022, TCF increased Community Fund Grant proposals to \$750. Small Business Grant proposals are up to \$500, limit one per household. **K-12 Scholarship applications are due on or before April 1<sup>st</sup>. All other applications are due on or before May 1<sup>st</sup>.** We ask that you use the online format for any application, as well as a final report. The submission of a final report on a past Community Fund Grant is required, prior to applying for a new one.

For more information about TCF, the link is at <https://www.tinmouthvt.org/community-fund/>. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jan Krantz at [tinmouthcommunityfund@gmail.com](mailto:tinmouthcommunityfund@gmail.com) or 802-446-2919.

We will host an **awards night in early June**, to announce all the grant and scholarship recipients. Details will be shared at a later point via *Tales* and Front Porch Forum. We look forward to seeing your ideas on how TCF can enhance the well-being of Tinmouth residents!

~ **Unclaimed Property at the  
Vermont State Treasurer's Office** ~

Just an annual reminder that a number of Tinmouth folks have unclaimed property being held at the State Treasurer's office. There is a process to get it back. Telephone, snail mail and Internet are ways to access and claim it. Visit [www.Vermont.gov](http://www.Vermont.gov) Treasurer's office for more information.

Nearly 40 Tinmouth folks are named, some are now deceased, some have moved, but some are still here – values are less than \$10 to more than \$200. Could be a forgotten bank account, uncashed check, security deposit refund, etc. These items have to be turned over to the state treasurer by banks, insurance companies, and others.

The state has to hold it until the its rightful owner claims it!!

~ **Homestead Declaration** ~

This a reminder that you need to file an **annual** Homestead Declaration with the Vermont Department of Taxes, form HS-122. You must file this to qualify for the homestead education tax rate and to request a property tax adjustment if you are eligible. You must also file form HI-144 (household income), **due April 18<sup>th</sup>**. This is required even if you do not have to file or pay state income taxes.

~ **Letters to the Editor** ~

We would like to express our appreciation to Cathy Reynolds for her service and leadership on the Select Board, during her second turn on the Board for the past 6 years.

We would like to recognize a few of Cathy's accomplishments

1. **Town Garage:** It was recognized years ago Tinmouth would be needing a new Town Garage. Although there were several attempts to derail this project, Cathy, along with Frank Sears, got this project underway. Cathy's expertise in this area kept the slow-moving ball rolling, with Engineers, construction bids, discussions with contractors, and all aspects of the project. We now have a new Town Garage to benefit our Road crews far into the future.
2. **Salt and Sand Shed:** Salt storage has been discussed in town for many years. Cathy wrote and obtained a significant grant to build a new Salt and Sand Shed. This grant will save taxpayer money in building the Salt and Sand Shed.
3. Cathy has educated the people who attend Select Board Meetings and the new Board members on how things work. She has organized the work flow of the Select Board. We have found her spreadsheet for the equipment fund tracking replacements very helpful.
4. Finally, the use of the Citizen Feedback form, and the public comment section on the Select Board Agenda has helped the meetings run smoothly.

While we have not always agreed with her, we respect her opinions. We'd like to recognize her willingness to admit when she has made a mistake and to apologize as needed. We would also like to express our appreciation for her willingness to spend an extraordinary amount of her time for the benefit of all of us in Tinmouth. The last two years of Select Board have been most productive.

Cathy, thank you for your service.

*Sherry Johnson & Kim Harbaugh*

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Voters,

I was constable in town for 4 years. I would like the town voters to vote to have me back in for the town constable again. The town needs a constable again. The Vermont State Police and the Sheriff's Dept. are short-handed and can't always be on time when needed now.

This will help all people in town just to have me on 24/7.

Please vote no on Article 4.

Thank You,  
*Paul Morris*



TINMOUTH  
CHURCH

~ Tinmouth Community Church ~

The seasons of our lives. We can think of them in different ways. Stages of physical development would be one way - infancy, childhood, adolescence, etc. The church has seasons of life as well. Their purpose is to facilitate our spiritual development, the development of our person as whole and holy and our communities as just and compassionate.

The Church has just begun the season of Lent, which is the six -week period of preparation leading up to Easter. By way of introspection, reflection, and the practice of personal and corporate spiritual disciplines, such as prayer and meditation, generosity and service, fasting and simplicity, we seek to make conscious contact with Spirit and allow the Spirit to cleanse us, heal us, and transform us into our best self in relationship with others.

Lent moves us beyond the “same old, same old” along a journey into the revitalizing depths of life, which, paradoxically, is death, and the new life that can come from ashes. Life, death, new life - it is the universal pattern for the development of all things. The transformation from death into new life we speak of, is the death of that which holds us back from the fullness of life in the Holy Spirit's Spirit. It is the truly good life of freedom, vitality, creativity, beauty, service and joy, to name some of its characteristics.

“Tis the Season” to go where we have never been, to become more of what we can be in faith and hope, and in goodness and love.

You are invited to join our corporate Lenten journey. Sunday Services are at 9 am at the Tinmouth Community Church.

**Blessings,  
Pastor John**

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

~ 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.

**March Friends of the Rutland Free Library  
Book Sale**

10 Court St., Rutland, VT 05701 802-773-1860  
Friday, Mar. 10 (10 -4) and Sat. Mar. 11 (10 - 2)  
Public Always Welcome

Thousands of organized, gently used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages.

Always a broad selection of rare and antique books. All purchases by donation only. Limit of two grocery bags per family. No book dealers.

Proceeds to support library programs and collections and designated library projects.

[www.rutlandfree.org](http://www.rutlandfree.org)

~ Community News ~

*Get Well Wishes* are sent to **Shannon Squier, Andy Moyer, Mark Parker, Elouise Hauserman, Jeffery Butler, and all those with the flu, colds, covid or other respiratory troubles.**

*Heartfelt Sympathies* are sent to family and friends of **Richard Frederick**; to **Doug Fontein** and family for the loss of his mother; and to family and friends of **Myron “Mike” Greene**.

A big **Thank You** to all who sent donations to keep *Tales of Tinmouth* in print. Your support is very much appreciated. We are now in our 37<sup>th</sup> year!

~ THGS Thank You ~

The Tinmouth Historical and Genealogical Society sends its heartfelt appreciation to **Dawn Hance** for her recent donation of three boxes/totes of historical papers regarding Tinmouth’s early history. Dawn has always had a wealth of information about Tinmouth in her head and written many articles for the Society’s Quarterly newsletter. She is an incredible resource of Tinmouth history!

THGS will be having a meeting soon to peruse these treasures and to think about/discuss future programs to engage Tinmouth residents in its history.

**Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00** is a tentative date, please watch Front Porch Forum for details – or call Gail Fallar.

~ Annual Appointments~

The Select Board will be making annual appointments at their March meeting. Please see pages 3 & 4 of the town report for openings/positions/committees.

If you are interested in any of these (Inspector of Lumber & Shingles – Weighers of Coal??), please contact the town office at 446-2498 by March 9<sup>th</sup>.



March 1, 2023

To the Tinmouth Community,

Brrrrrr! February was indeed cold this year. There were several days when recess was cancelled because the wind chill plunged temperatures below 10 degrees. On days when the weather is prohibitive, students pass their recess time inside playing games and watching movies.

In spite of the cold, the snow has been a welcome sight! Primarily because the success of our Winter Sports Program is tied to the amount of snow we have on our assigned days on the mountain. Sledding, a student favorite, has also been successful this year. Let's hope our luck continues through to the day of the *Cardboard Sled Derby* coming up in March. In this event, students work with classmates to construct the fastest cardboard sled that makes it down the slope in one piece!

The next six weeks, from winter break through to spring break, is when teaching is intensified. There are no field trips scheduled. Mid-year testing is completed. Once we return from Spring break, on April 24<sup>th</sup>, state assessments begin. These are mandatory in order to receive financial support from the federal government. This year the Agency of Education is implementing a new test entitled Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program (VTCAP). Similar to last year's state assessments (which are no longer in use), the scores will be compared to schools across the nation. Students in grades 3 through 9 will participate in this program starting with English Language Arts and followed by Mathematics testing. Grades 5,8, and 11 will then participate in Science assessments. Additionally, students will be taking STAR 360 in May as well as individual reading inventories. It is certainly the age of data collection!

Please be sure to read the book review by Dylan Buffum on *Every Living Thing* following this update. A copy of this collection of short stories is in the Children's Library Box located just outside the double doors of the Community Center. Additionally, we are continuing the fifth and sixth grade *Day in the Life* letters. We are on the fourth letter written by Violet Alexander from the perspective of mother.

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



## **A Day in the Life**

*By Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker*

Fifth and sixth grade students are reading historical fiction novels that focus on the Dust Bowl era. Upon completion of the book, *Out of the Dust*, six students chose a culminating group project in which they created a fictitious family consisting of mom, a 15 year-old son, a 4-year old daughter, mom's sister, a grandmother, and a close family friend and neighbor.

Each student wrote a brief essay or letter from the perspective of one of these characters and envisioned what their lives would be like as a catastrophic dust storm approached. Each month, for the next six months, we will publish one essay. Together these six essays provide insight into a day in the life of a family during the Dust Bowl Era.

### **"Mother"**

*by Violet Alexander*

(6:53 AM)

I woke up to Ma's horrible dust filled cough.

My Ma's a small woman, and her lungs have been overtaken by the dust.

I lazily walk my way down stairs to give her the little water that we have left.

Soon after that Joey, my son, came down stairs to ask if Aunt Sally had left yet. "Yes," I said.

I walk upstairs to get changed into my once white, but now brown and dust filled farm dress.

As I slip on my dress, I hear Katie crying.

I walk over to her and see that her eyes are bloodshot from the dust.

I brought her down stairs and laid her on the couch then gave her milk.

(7:42 AM)

After that I walk into the kitchen and ask Joey if he can milk the cows for me, "Yes" he says.

As I start on breakfast Katie comes to me and asks me if Aunt Sally is home. I say no she's at work, I have to bring her food later, Katie walked away.

When I finish breakfast and I'm about to leave when I hear Ma's cough.

I rushed to her side.

I stayed with her for a few moments after.

She's getting worse.

I ask her if she could watch Katie while I leave to give Sally food and visit the doctors.

(8:21 AM)

I grabbed biscuits and some dust covered potatoes to bring to Sally at her work, about a mile away. I walk to her work and find her in the front talking to a man.

I tell her to be safe, then walk to the doctor's office in town, just to see it's closed I sigh and walk home.

In the front yard Joey stops me and tells me that the barn is shaking, that means a storm is here. I look up to

the sky, it's a horrifyingly dark brown.

We run inside, I weakly try to yell to Ma and Katie but just barely hears me and jumps into action. We put oily rags on the windows to stop the dust.

After a few moments Ma tries to yell, and all I hear is coughing but I understand her.

"Katie is outside all alone." Ma said

I try to open the door but I couldn't because of the wind.

I hear Katies small and weak scream drown in the wind.

(12:36 PM)

Right when I'm about to give up with the door, I hear glass shatter and a thump, I knew what it was immediately.

Our family photo.

I turn around to see Ma laying on the hardwood floor knocked out with a shard of glass in her neck causing it to bleed.

I froze. All I heard was the wind.

I ran to her with a rag to stop the bleeding.

Just then Sally ran into the house with Katie, her leg torn open and small splinters in the wound.

I told Sally to come over so I can take Katie, I layed Ma on the couch as the storm died down.

I wrapped Katies leg in a rag with some honey.

At the end of the day our neighbor, my friend from school, came to give us a pie, a delicious one, like a rainbow after the storm.

### ~ Book Review ~

#### "Every Living Thing"

Review by Dylan Buffum

*Every Living Thing* is a book of short stories about animals helping out people with struggles like depression or isolation. Each animal in each story sends the character in the right direction. The book is fiction but it relates to real life scenarios. You might be thinking of the theme of the book, well that's easy, it's just short stories about how important animals are to people especially when they're struggling. If you are wondering about who the author is, it is Cynthia Rylant. She is also the author of the *Henry and Mudge* series.

My favorite short story in *Every Living Thing*, is "Slower Than the Rest". In this chapter, Leo was considered slower than the rest of his classmates. One day Leo found a turtle and he named it Charlie. And when Leo brought Charlie to school he won the forest fire safety contest. He felt fast for the first time in his life. Charlie made Leo realize that he wasn't so slow.

I have mixed feelings about *Every Living Thing*. Most stories had a good lesson in them about real life scenarios. Some were hard to stay focused on because they moved slowly. I would recommend the book because it encourages people to "flip the script" and look at your struggles differently.

## Wallingford Town Hall Concert Series

Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm



Irish Band -



# EXTRA STOUT



JUST IN TIME FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Extra Stout is the Green Mountains of Vermont's favorite traditional Irish band that has been playing together for upwards of twenty years. They bring all of the variety that Irish music has to offer from raucous drinking songs to ballads of home and county; from slow and haunting airs to rocking reels, jigs and polkas. Suggested donations of \$10 to \$15 per person at the door. **Baker extraordinaire Erika Berner will be providing delicious homemade treats for the bake sale. Proceeds from the bake sale benefit Empire State Ride to End Cancer.**

For more information, call the Wallingford Town Administrator at (802)446-2872.

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! It's quite full at the moment, a good time to stop for a visit and take a good book home!

*Please bring only a book or two at a time.*

AND there is also a **Children's Little Library** on the porch of the Community Center – many children's books are available there, also a put and/or take place to share good books.

~ Meeting Highlights ~

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

**Select Board ~ 2/9/2023**

Members present (in-person): Kevin Eaton and (via Zoom) Cathy Reynolds.

Others present: In-person: Eric Buffum-Road Commissioner, Ed Bucceri, Michael Fallar, Judy Gilmore, and Gail Fallar-SB Assistant; Via Zoom: Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Pat Psholka, Rick Fallar, David and Nancy Birdsall.

**Citizen's Input:** Michael noted that it is hard to make the SB 6:00 meeting time, it used to be 7:00, most town committees use that. He also raised questions regarding the last executive session, noting an expense over \$10,000 needs to go out to bid, and the public should be allowed to participate.

Cathy noted the meeting times are for the convenience of the SB.

**Public Works:** Eric provided an update; the road crew is using the new building; need to build shelves; Morton Buildings work is nearly complete – they covered the exterior bollards, need to pour a cement slab under the porch, and do something about the 'make-up air'. He thanked the Board for the building.

Board voted to enter executive session to discuss details of a procurement contract regarding the salt/sand shed grant at 6:18, Board exited at 6:28, no action taken. Present were Cathy, Meadow, Kevin, Eric and Gail.

**Highway:** Eric reported plowing and sanding, servicing the chipper and grader, still working on boom mower estimate – will have more information next meeting. He inquired about fencing by the road side, split rail? Need to think about, is it required for transfer station security? May only keep cable across the driveway for now. Eric also inquired about running air lines in the new garage for better access to the compressor, road crew can do that, cost about \$500. Compressor is only on when being used. Board concurred.

**Used Equipment Procurement Guidelines** – Board reviewed draft; Cathy will re-write for next meeting.

**2023 VTRANS Grant** – Board asked Eric and Gail to provide draft application for March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Annual Mileage Certificate** – Board approved by consensus, no changes from 2022.

**TAP (salt/sand shed) Grant** – Cathy updated Board, 100% certain that another grant will be needed due to increase in costs.

**Speed Limit Committee Expectations** – Kevin noted he would provide guidance to the committee. Cathy asked that the committee review how to change speed limits, review current limits, determine what is appropriate, and propose changes to the SB. Board appointed Kevin to the committee, as its Chair. If others are interested, they are welcome to join.

**Financials:** Board reviewed monthly report, reviewed orders/warrants, approved all by consensus.

**Debit Card Update** – Guidelines needed – for road commissioner and town clerk use– Board will discuss at March meeting.

**Financial Policy Review** – Accounting Auditing & Financial Reporting and Cash Receipts - Kevin asked that review wait until Meadow could be present at the March meeting.

Cathy reviewed **Follow-Up List** for Ed and Judy. David spoke to Shade Tree Policy – only one town has adopted one to date – noted there is no immediate need. He also spoke to wood in the town's right of way – if the land owner does not want it, what could/should be done with it? Stack for use by needy folks? Who would oversee that? Not the road crew, TVFD perhaps?

Board discussed **AARP grant** for speed feedback signs, authorized the Speed Limit Committee to prepare application for next SB meeting, Sherry volunteered to work on it. Approved by consensus.

**Right of Way from Mountain View Road** – The Strattons have not replied to the Town's request regarding moving the driveway to a safer location. Board discussed a walking right of way on the northern end – Gail advised the SB to walk the proposed location before further consideration. Board tentatively set 2/16/23 to do that.

**EOC grant** – Cathy spoke to language in the grant – wants to make clear application/approval is for two generators – one for the town office and one for the fire department. Board agreed by consensus to approve Cathy signing EOC grant paperwork for them. Board discussed using ARPA money to cover both the town and fire department's share – about \$18,000, as it benefits the entire community. Sherry advised that the TVFD no longer needs the ARPA money for air packs, would like to re-direct their request to the generator match. Board voted to approve match for both from ARPA funds. Cathy volunteered to act as project manager for this grant, RFP's will be required. Board agreed by consensus.

**Solid Waste Tax Appeal** – Board voted to authorize the Select Board Assistant to write letter of appeal of the Vermont Tax Department's recent notice regarding solid waste tax. Town has paid it for years, and so has Hubbard Brothers on behalf of the town. A refund is due to the town, not a fine and penalty for not paying last quarter.

**NFIP** – Gail advised that the town has been approved to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and that there will be a presentation about it at the SB's April meeting.

**CLA Redetermination** – Listers met with District Advisor, waiting for results.

**Sherry**, speaking for herself and husband Kim, expressed appreciation for all of Cathy's accomplishments and service to the town.

## **Select Board ~ 2/16/2023 - Special Meeting**

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

Others present: in-person: Eric Buffum, Road Commissioner, Conservation Commission members – Rainbow Squier, Ed Hasenohr and Doug Fontein; Judy Gilmore, Sherry Johnson & Kim Harbaugh (site visit only), Michael Fallar and Gail Fallar-SB Assistant.

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a site visit for a possible walking right of way from the town office to the town parcel, going behind (east of) the old creamery building and along lands of Stratton and/or Eaton.

Those present tramped through the bushes and along the stone wall to view where a right of way might work.

Recording of the meeting began at 5:23 upon return to the town office.

Gail advised that Michael Stratton had verbally advised that they did not want to move the location of the proposed right of way from Mountain View Road from the southern end of their property to the middle of their meadow, but would be willing to discuss a walking right of way on the northern end of their property. Given that the right of way will not be moved to a safer location for a driveway, the Purchase and Sales Agreement needs to be dissolved/terminated.

Cathy advised that the Eatons were also willing to discuss a right of way across the corner of their property to the town's land.

Site visit report – there is a large stone wall along the Stratton property, a right of way would be less than 100 feet from their house, and would have a 90 degree turn. The stone wall could prove hard to navigate. There is a straighter more direct possible path through the Eaton property.

Doug, speaking for the Conservation Commission, noted it would be easier to cross the Eaton property, but the CC would be happy with any access to the town land for recreation.

Cathy reported she had printed and perused the Rutland County Sheriff's Department's monthly reports for the last year and advised other SB members that they needed to review them and perhaps speak with the county sheriff to provide guidance regarding the town's contract.

Cathy explained the need for the Select Board to enter executive session to discuss a potential contract regarding engineering for the salt/sand shed project. As it is a federal grant there are processes that need to be followed. Discussing a specific contractor could taint the process if the town had to go out to bid. The town was unable to convince AOT that federal process of public notice had been followed when the engineering contract was first put out to bid in 2018 and awarded. There are currently three options for the SB – 1) pay the engineering company outside of the grant (no reimbursement allowed); 2) procure of a new Request for Proposal; or 3) hire an “At

The Ready” firm pre-approved by AOT. Cathy also reported that she spoke with Steffanie Bourque (RRPC), the town's project manager for this grant who advised there were three criteria regarding the SB's decision – availability, experience with fabric buildings (the State's At The Ready firms may not have this), and cost.

At 5:38, the Board voted to enter executive session to discuss a proposed contract, invited in were Eric, Gail and Judy. Board exited at 5:57. Board voted to go out to competitive bid for the salt/sand shed project and not use the State's 'At the Ready' list.

Cathy reported on the EOC grant for generators for the town office and fire department – another form had to be completed as the town office is on the National Historic Register, indicating the location and any disturbed area for the generator. No final decision has been made – need the electrician to assist with locating it. The town's septic system is located on the east side of the town office.

Cathy again offered to continue her work on the two grants – salt/sand shed and EOC generators. Meadow advised the new Board should make that decision at its March meeting.

## **Planning Commission ~ 2/16/23**

Members present in-person: Michael Fallar, Rainbow Squier, Judy Gilmore, and Andy Gilmore

Members present via Zoom: Vito Macaluso, Kim Harbaugh, and Bob Lloyd

Others present in-person: David Scribner-applicant and Gail Fallar Secretary, and via Zoom: Sherry Johnson

Members reviewed the Scribner subdivision application – while the survey plat shows four lots, one is a pre-existing lot – 6.71 acres with the house, the other three are from a separate parcel that is contiguous. This was reviewed as a minor subdivision. Michael read through the checklist. Members asked questions. Mr. Scribner advised that all lots would have deeded rights of way to VT Route 133 (West Tinmouth Road) using the right of way designated on the survey. Members voted to approve.

Members reviewed Chapter 5 up to the energy section – will wait and discuss that with Ed Bove from RRPC in March.

Members discussed adding an inclusion and diversity statement to the town plan. Rainbow read the Value Statement adopted by the Select Board. Some members expressed concern calling out certain groups, not including everyone. Others noted that the town plan already has an objective (#4) that says, “Maintain a population consisting of residents and families of all incomes, ages, and types.” and felt that that was all that was needed. Some considered it a political statement and wanted the town plan to be neutral, others did not see it as political. Everyone is welcome here – could be the town slogan. In the end, members agreed to keep discussing it.

## Speed Limit Committee ~ 2/23/23

Present were members (in person) Kevin Eaton, Hollis Squier, Ray Pratt, and Jeff Warfle and (via zoom) Tracy Byford and Sherry Johnson.

Others present: (in person) Trish Warfle, Gail Fallar and (via zoom) Ethan Pepin, RRPC

Kevin called the meeting to order, and reviewed Select Board expectations - evaluate and review speed limits/signs, update the speed ordinance to include stop signs, and look at enforcement.

Members discussed adding caution lights to the school zone signs, adding speed (step down) reduction zones for Route 140 north and east of the school, installing speed feedback signs with blue lights on the East Road, reducing speed limits, enforcement at different times, and expressed concern for lack of consequences for offenders.

Ethan reviewed data from the RRPC report. He noted that 85% of drivers traveled the correct speed for the road, noting that the studies don't show the limits are wrong now. There are two ways to change driver behavior – 1) enforcement or 2) change the geometry of the road. Where the highest speeds occurred in the study, the roads are straight, so that is not an option. He suggested the committee compile a list of measures needed and where, measures like speed feedback lights/posts, signs, etc., and then prioritize them in order to take advantage of grant opportunities as they become available.

Various grants were discussed – AARP and VTRANS for starters.

A to-do list was compiled – Jeff will investigate how Pittsford reduced speeds on Route 3, as well as looking for model ordinances – Ethan will forward costs of speed feedback sign/posts and review speed study data for traffic traveling more than 10 miles per hour over the posted speed limit - Sherry will work on the AARP grant – Kevin will speak with the County Sheriff and Deputy to invite them to the next meeting to discuss enforcement.

Gail reminded the Committee they were formed to provide information to the Select Board to help them with speed issues – they do not have spending authority – but are to make recommendations for actions the SB should/could take.

Next meeting set for March 30<sup>th</sup>.



## ~ Legislative Contact Info ~

The Vermont General Assembly is back in session, meeting in person but also sometimes virtually. If you wish to contact your State Senators or Representatives, here is the info:

You can call the Sergeant-at-Arms at 1-800-322-5616 and leave a message, or use email addresses below.

*Rutland-Bennington District –*

Rep. Robin Chesnut-Tangerman:

rchesnut-tangerman@leg.state.vt.us

*Rutland County Senators-*

Sen. Brian Collamore: bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us

Sen. David Weeks: dweeks@leg.state.vt.us

Sen. Terry Williams: tkwilliams@leg.state.vt.us

You can also access the Legislature's website at [www.leg.state.vt.us](http://www.leg.state.vt.us). There you can find who is on which committee, what bills have been introduced, track each bill's progress, review committee agendas, etc. There is a wealth of information available.

Your input can be important in their decision-making. Let them know your concerns!

## ~ Nature Notes ~

Daylight hours are getting longer – yeah!! Spring is just around the corner!

February was crazy weatherwise too! Started out with a *real* cold-snap – below zero and wind chills of -50 degrees. And then the next day the temperature climbed to almost 40 degrees! Record warm temperatures were set, as well as record high low temps! Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> the temperature was 57, rain soon turned to ice, thunder and lightning arrived at 7:30 AM on the 17<sup>th</sup>!!

Red-winged blackbirds were spotted on February 19<sup>h</sup>. Snow drops were blossoming on February 14<sup>th</sup>!!

Robins and mourning doves have also been reported. *The sun is warm and welcome!*

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## A Landowner's Guide

### Wildlife Habitat Management for Lands in Vermont

**MONTPELIER** – The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has compiled this very interesting and useful manual to provide information and guidance to landowners, foresters, wildlife biologists, and others interested in managing land for the benefit of fish and wildlife.

This guide is intended to assist you as a landowner to manage your land to benefit wildlife in tandem with other management goals you might have, such as for timber or hiking trails; many of these goals are compatible, if not complimentary.

There is a copy at the Town Office, call and it can be emailed to you or you can visit Fish and Wildlife's website [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com) for more information.

### Middletown Springs Historical Society Announces Maple Raffle

MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS, VT -

With 35 items, each valued at \$100 or more, the Middletown Springs Historical Society (MSHS) kicks off its annual Maple Festival Raffle. The Grand Prize item is the winner's choice of a gift certificate for 100 gallons of heating oil from Johnson Energy or the cash equivalent, around \$400.

Other raffle items include gift cards from local and regional stores and restaurants, artwork and collectibles, and even a bridal or event floral arrangement. Additionally this year, Middletown Springs residents offer their expertise in fiber arts, massage, natural history, computer consulting, and connecting with horses. Participants can target their tickets for individual item raffles, increasing their chances of getting what they want. Raffle tickets are \$25 each or five tickets for \$100. **Tickets and payments must be returned by mail, postmarked by March 15.** For a list of raffle items, downloadable tickets, and instructions, visit the Society's new, ADA accessible website, [www.mshsvt.org](http://www.mshsvt.org).

Raffle drawings for each of the 35 items will be held during the **2023 Maple Festival on Sunday, March 19**, at the Historical Society building. Winners do not have to be present and will be notified to arrange for pickup or shipping. Winners will be responsible for shipping costs.

"We are sincerely heartened by the generous raffle donations we have received from MSHS members and friends, local businesses and regional stores," says Maple Festival Chair Pat Hemenway. All proceeds from the raffle support MSHS educational and historic preservation projects including the Mineral Springs Park, the MSHS Museum, and the historic Adams House.

**For more information contact David Wright at 802-235-2376 or [montvert@vermontel.net](mailto:montvert@vermontel.net).**

14th Annual

# Pie for Breakfast

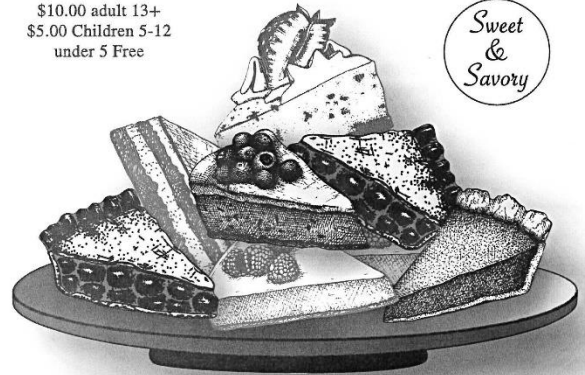
Saturday, March 11

8AM - 11AM

At the Middletown Springs School

\$10.00 adult 13+  
\$5.00 Children 5-12  
under 5 Free

Sweet  
&  
Savory



*Benefit for the Middletown Springs Public Library*

~ **PIE FOR BREAKFAST** ~

MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS, VT –

The Middletown Springs Public Library's Pie for Breakfast is back in person for the first time since March 2020. On **Saturday, March 11, 2023**, from 8am-11am, library volunteers and trustees will be serving up all-you-can-eat PIE for breakfast with tea, coffee, or juice. The slices are cut thin so it is easy to try many different varieties. Pies are both sweet (such as pumpkin, apple, berry, chocolate) and savory (such as quiche, pot pies, pizza).

This delicious annual event will be held again at the Middletown Springs Elementary School, scrumptious pies, hot coffee, and fine conversation, with plenty of elbow room. \$10 for adults; \$5 for children 5-12; under 5 are FREE. All proceeds benefit the Middletown Springs Public Library. **For more information contact the library at 802-235-2435.**

~ **Tinmouth's Community Closet** ~

Many thanks to **Ingrid Lepley** for organizing and to all who donated winter clothing to the Community Closet that was located on the Town Office porch for the past month or so. There were lots of great items that were passed on to those who needed to stay warm this winter.

It has closed until next winter. Based on the amount of give and take, it was clearly needed, and appreciated!!



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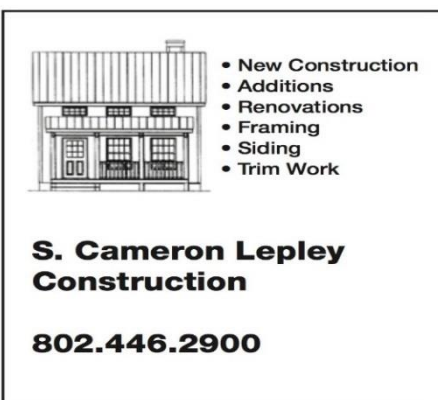
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~ Bess Lewis ~  
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 or [blewriver@gmail.com](mailto:blewriver@gmail.com)

Needing a friend to talk with during these stressful times?  
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**Any reason is a good reason to call: 802-417-1491.**

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**Town Garage Phone Number**  
**802-446-9163**

If you need to alert the road crew about a tree across the road, or have some other road issue, please be advised the Town Garage has a telephone and answering machine.

Please leave a message, as the road crew most likely will be out working on the roads.

The Town's Snow Plowing Practice is on the town's website, [tinmouthvt.org](http://tinmouthvt.org). If you would like a printed copy, please contact the town office.



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~ March 2023 Calendar of Events ~



<b>Fire Department</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Fire House</b>
<b>Website Committee</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Old Fire House</b>
<b>Informational Meeting</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Community Ctr &amp; Zoom</b>
<b>Town Meeting Voting</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:00 am – 7:00 pm</b>	<b>Community Center</b>
<b>Select Board</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>Town Office &amp; Zoom</b>
<b>Rabies Clinic</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Noon- 2:00</b>	<b>Wallingford Town Hall</b>
<b>Pie For Breakfast</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:00 -11:00 am</b>	<b>Middletown Springs</b>
<b>Planning Commission</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Town Office &amp; Zoom</b>
<b>Tales of Tinmouth Deadline</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Don't Miss It!</b>
<b>Equity and Inclusion Comm.</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>7:00 -8:30</b>	<b>Town Office &amp; Zoom</b>

~ April 2023 Calendar of Events ~



<b>Dog Licenses Due</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>9-Noon</b>	<b>Town Office</b>
<b>Fire Department</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Town Office/Virtual</b>
<b>Easter Service</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00</b>	<b>Community Church</b>
<b>Conservation Commission</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Town Office/Virtual</b>
<b>Select Board</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>Town Office/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>TBD</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Town Office/Virtual</b>

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

~ Sunday Church Service ~ 9:00 AM All are welcome! ~

~ The Library is open Thursdays 2:00-5:00 PM AND on the first Saturday of the month from 10-12!! ~



~ Town Meeting ~  
**Informational Meeting**  
 Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00  
**Voting**  
 Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> 8 am – 7 pm  
 both at the Community Center.

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