

TALES OF TINMOUTH

April 2023
Vol. 37 Number 4

Tinmouth
Vermont

Editors' Notes: *Has Spring Sprung?!?!?*

The deadline for submissions (news, items of interest, get well wishes, poetry, etc.) 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

~ **Town Meeting 2023 Results** ~

The Informational Meeting was attended by 24 voters in person and another 12 via zoom. Rep. Robin Chesnut-Tangerman spoke briefly about issues in Montpelier and answered questions. There were only a few comments and questions about the budgets and the elimination of the office of constable.

Cathy Reynolds was presented with flowers, words of appreciation, and applause for her many years serving on the Select Board.

Voting on Tuesday resulted in 131 voters (32% of the 407 voters on the checklist) casting ballots, which included 32 who voted absentee/early.

All officers were elected - unopposed - there were two or three write-ins.

Moderator- Holly Ross

Select Board - Judy Gilmore

Town Clerk/Treasurer/Listener - Gail Fallar

Auditor - Ann Czar

Delinquent Tax Collector - Cat Yoder

The Town Budget passed 122 yes, 8 no

The Highway Budget passed 114 yes, 16 no

Eliminate Constable Position question - 85 yes, 45 no

Thank you to **Ed & Shirley Bucceri, Pat Psholka, Paula Bonazinga, Ken Krantz, Ann Czar, Marshall Squier, Doug Fontein, Cathy Reynolds, Nancy and David Birdsall, and Sherry Johnson** for working at the polls or counting ballots. And *thank you* to those who helped with set-up the night before and clean-up.

Thank You as well to all who took the time to vote!

~ **Homestead Declaration** ~

This is the final 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 18th**.

This is required even if you do not have to file or pay state income taxes.

~ **Annual Appointments and Vacancies in Need of Volunteers** ~

The Select Board is reviewing the annual appointment of town officers - from Pound Keeper to Green-Up Day to the Energy Committee. There is a complete list on pages 3 and 4 of the 2022 town report. Please note the Select Board has dissolved the ARPA Committee and the Tree Policy Committee - members are thanked for their efforts with those assignments. The Board has created a new Recreation Committee.

The Board of Adjustment, the Planning Commission, and the Conservation Commission all have members with staggered 3 or 4 year terms, so each year a few openings happen.

While it seems that most everyone wants to keep their current appointments, the Select Board is also interested in knowing if anyone would be willing to be placed on a waiting list for a particular job, to be called when a vacancy occurs.

Right now, there are vacancies on the Website Committee, the Equity and Inclusion Committee (E & I), and a newly created Recreation Committee (5-7 members needed). Do you have ideas for recreation?

Long time Emergency Management Director Michael Fannin is stepping down from that position. Much appreciation to Michael for his dedication and service for more than 20 years.

Please contact the town office - 802-446-2498 or tinmouthtown@vermontel.net if you are interested in any of these positions or would like more information about them.

Most of the annual appointments have job descriptions in the Tinmouth Operator's Manual (TOM), except for the E & I and Recreation Committees, which are newer. The TOM was first published in 2013, and is currently being updated by the E & I's Mutual Aide Working Group - as several things have changed in the last 10 years. If you do not have your printed copy handy, it is listed on the Town's website - tinmouthvt.org under Resources.

Regarding the newly created Recreation Committee - 5 to 7 members are needed. The Select Board will determine the size of the committee once willing volunteers are found to take a look at what the needs and wants are for recreation, what is available for recreation now, and how to plan for future recreation opportunities.

Thank you for being willing to serve your community.

Please contact the Town Office by April 13th, the next Select Board meeting.



~ **TINMOUTH GREEN UP ~ 2023 ~**
Green Up Day is Saturday, May 6
By Doug Fontein

The Tinmouth Green Up Committee is teaming up with the Conservation Commission to create a fun and delicious Green Up. In hopes of bringing the community out on Green Up Day, we're doing some fun activities at the Transfer Station at the conclusion of the event.

Green Up volunteers will **meet at the Transfer Station between 8:30 and 9:00** to get bags and a section of road to clean up. We'll reunite at the transfer station at **11:00 for the GALA AWARDS CEREMONY (with prizes) and FREE ICE CREAM.** This is a family and kid-friendly event, so please bring your young ones so they can share the fun (and maybe learn a little about civic responsibility and protecting our environment).

There won't be a Green Up activity at the school this year, so this is your kiddos' opportunity to be part of the team! People are also welcome to do DIY Green UP by getting bags from the Town Office (bags should be there by mid-April) and cleaning a section of roadside as your schedule allows. But we urge you to come with your family on Saturday morning to help build community momentum for this important and fun activity.

Please dress appropriately for the weather, including boots, work gloves, long pants and long-sleeved shirts (to help avoid ticks). For more info. On avoiding ticks, go to the Vermont Dept. of Health website and search ticks or use this link: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/tickborne-diseases/prevent-tick-bites-tickborne-diseases>

Any items too large (or too yucky) for your vehicle, we can pick up with a truck if you tell us where it is.

There is also the option of "adopting" a section of roadway in town and keeping it litter-free year round as you walk or drive on it. In addition to keeping your neighborhood beautiful, this will allow us to focus on other roads on Green Up Day to make sure we cover all the roads in town.

We hope to see you at Green Up on Saturday, May 6. Feel free to contact members of the Green Up Committee with any questions: **Doug Fontein 802-446-2928, Ed Hasenohr 802-446-2676, Nelson Jaquay 802-446-2367.**

The Green-Up Committee is going to set up operations in the new town garage. Good time to take a peek while you pick up your bags!

*May your path be strewn with flowers,
 Memories, friends and happy hours.
 May blessings come from heaven above,
 To fill your life with peace and love.
 An English Blessing*

~ **Annual Tinmouth Plant Sale ~**
By Tracy Byford



The Tinmouth Plant Sale will be happening again this year at the Squier Farmstead, 12 McNamara Road.

Dates are May 13th through the 22nd. Plants will be stocked by the 13th and restocked by the 21st. Please note that we are not a plant nursery, so things may sell out quickly and we may not have any more of a particular variety, but we will have other types and varieties of plants as the week progresses.

Want to get your hands dirty? Diggers and potters are sorely needed - no experience is fine; experienced gardeners are happy to teach you. We have tools, soil, tables and chairs to sit in while you pot up the plants. Please bring a pair of light gardening gloves if you really don't want to get your hands dirty. :-)

Digging and potting will begin mid-April and continue until around May 16th. Even if you don't have any plants to divide, you could help divide plants at established gardens and of course, there are always a few orphans left over looking for a home. There will be a big potting on the weekend of the 6th of May and also on the weekend of the 13th. Trailer loaders and unloaders will be needed on May 10th and the 17th. Even if you only have a few hours to help, it would be appreciated. It really can be a lot of fun and a pleasant get-together socializing with other gardeners, or maybe you want to learn some garden tricks - this is the place!

We could use donations of plastic pots over 4" up to about 20", including hanging baskets with no hangers. These can be dropped at 148 Channel Road, house to the back. Clay pots also accepted; our gardeners can use them if you can't.

Proceeds benefit Tinmouth Scholarships.

Please contact Tracy Byford at tracyleab@gmail.com or 215-990-9949 for more information and think Spring!



Tinmouth Telephone and Business Directory Correction

It has come to our attention that the correct telephone number for Vermont Mountain Meadows Farm, LLC is **802-558-3939**. It is listed under Wreaths, Maple Syrup Products and Farms & Farm Products. Please clip this and insert it into your copy of the Directory.

And if you would, please check your own listing in the Directory and send us corrections by April 25th. We will include a listing update in the *May Tales*.

Please send to tinmouthtales@vermontel.net or call the town office at 802-446-2498. *Thank you!*

~ **Tinmouth Community Fund 2023**
Grant and Scholarship Applications ~
by Jan Krantz

I am submitting this again as a reminder that now is the **ONE** time of year for Tinmouth residents to apply 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>

Community Fund Grant proposals can be up to \$750 and Small Business Grant proposals to \$500, limit one per household. **K-12 Scholarship applications are due by April 1st, all others by May 1st. Please use the online formats above for all applications**, as well as Community Fund Grant final reports, a requirement before applying for a new one. We will announce all grant and scholarship recipients at an awards night in early June, details to follow.

For more info. about TCF grants and scholarships, the link is on the Tinmouth town website under the Community Fund tab or at <https://www.tinmouthvt.org/community-fund/>.

Any questions in regard to applying for grants or scholarships, please reach out to Jan Krantz at tinmouthcommunityfund@gmail.com or 802-446-2919.

~ **Amphibian Crossing Alert** ~

You may have noticed some brightly-colored amphibian crossing signs on the roadsides in Tinmouth. These are placed by the Tinmouth Conservation Commission in areas where there are known migration routes for salamanders, frogs and turtles. These animals move on a seasonal basis to their breeding and egg-laying sites and are at risk of being killed by car traffic where their paths cross roads.

Please slow down and avoid hitting animals when you see these signs on the roads. There are especially high numbers of amphibians moving on rainy spring nights, so pay extra attention in those conditions. If you'd like to know more about amphibian migration, go to www.vtherpatlas.org. Please do not hit, move or disturb our signs, many of which are hand-made, and please contact me if you see a sign that's damaged or moved. The signs will be removed around July 1 and stored until next year.

Thank you,
Doug Fontein,
Tinmouth Conservation Commission
446-2928

~ **Library News** ~
By Ruth Drachman, Librarian



"Reading gives you the ability to reach higher ground. And keep climbing." So says Oprah Winfrey who wants us to read.

Come to the library, and read!

We are now open the first Saturday of each month from 10 am until noon.

April first - Nelson Jaquay will be the visiting librarian.

May 6th - Kristy Usher will be on duty.

We have a lot of new books.

For Adults:

So Shall You Reap by Donna Leon; A Commissario Brunetti mystery set in Venice, Italy.

The White Lady by Jacqueline Winspear; The author introduces a new heroine, set in post world war II in Britain, in 1947.

Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore by Robin Sloan; A bookstore you enter and don't want to leave.

The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman; In a peaceful retirement village, four friends meet weekly to discuss unsolved crimes. A funny, clever whodunit.

The library is open on Thursday afternoon from 2 o'clock until about five.

Ruth is there then. Please stop in . . .

April Friends of the Rutland Free Library
Book Sale

10 Court Street, Rutland, VT 802-773-1860
Friday, Apr. 14 (10 - 4) and Saturday, Apr. 15 (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

~ **Nature Notes** ~

A wild and wooly March!! Warm days, cold days, a foot of snow – gone in a week, thunder, roaring winds, mud, birds singing, daffodils budding – but not yet daring to burst forth. Turkeys everywhere, fish worms, woodchucks, ducks on Ernie's Pond, geese flying over, frogs croaking, and peepers peeping!!!



TINMOUTH CHURCH

~ Tinmouth Community Church ~



Easter. For so many people in our post-Christian era, Easter has lost its meaning and relevance. I misspoke. Easter hasn't lost anything, we have. As the truth about life, Easter can't lose anything. What is that truth that Easter conveys? In a nutshell/Easter egg - everything that dies and everyone who dies is resurrected. In the words of Jesus, "Even though we die, yet we shall live."

All that exists has its time, then comes to an end, recycled in the perpetual reconstitution of new forms of matter and life. The human journey is no exception, except that our whole journey is a conscious, ongoing dynamic of life, death and new life, as we again and again let go of what has been to embrace what we are becoming. Conscious beings that we are, we also know this journey will come to an end. It is knowledge meant to help us appreciate each day and love each other the more. But what about that hope, a hope that is ultimately the longing for more life, indeed, for a life that transcends death? Just wishful believing?

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead that first Easter morn is God confirming that the human journey of life and death ends in resurrection, or better said, continues in a resurrected life. "The fact is," says the Apostle Paul (and the many other witnesses of the risen Christ then and now), "Jesus has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of all who have died." About our eternal life Paul says, "No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor mind conceived, the wonders God has prepared for us." The wonder is still more wonderful, for Easter also assures us that everything is resurrected. Easter is telling us that human history will conclude, not in self-destruction or divine condemnation, but in a new humanity in a new heaven and a new earth.

The wonder goes on; so much more can be said. Come hear, come experience. Easter Sunday service is at 9 am. Peace be with you.

**Blessings,
Pastor John**

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

Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday, April 9th, following the Sunday morning Easter Service. All are welcome.

Bell ringers needed, please contact Pastor John at the above number or email. No experience necessary!



~ Sewists Create New Chair Cushions ~
By Wendy Andrews

On March 18, 2023, a team of skilled sewists gathered at Tinmouth Community Church to create new cushions for the chairs in the church's downstairs gathering space. The new cushions were made with donated fabric and foam purchased through the sale of chicken eggs that were provided weekly by a local farmer.

The delightfully plush and patterned cushions (seen in the photos above and below) replaced the worn out and flattened ones that were over 20 years old! Each cushion was adorned with ties to secure them to the chairs after stories of events involving slipping cushions were shared.

The sewists hope that community members will consider attending a weekly Sunday coffee hour or other church hosted events to personally try out the new cushions. The old cushions will not go to waste and will be donated to the Humane Society.



Thank you to all who worked on the new cushions for the Church's community room chairs. It was such a fun afternoon and we will be sewing again on April 8th at 10:00 AM at the Church. If anyone would like to join us, we would love to have you. Please bring your own lunch.

Wendy Andrews



April 1, 2023

To the Tinmouth Community,

This year's *Winter Sports Program* was wildly successful thanks to the support of volunteers and staff. Every child received six lessons by Killington/Pico instructors and everyone was skiing or boarding on trails (no longer on the bonanza or "bunny slope") by week four. Many students took advantage of the season passes and skied or boarded on weekends with family and friends.

We are very proud of our musicians who played and sang with students from all district schools in the *Music in our Schools* event. Thank you to parents who were able to attend!

Spring break is coming up on April 17th through the 21st. Students are currently working hard on scholarly pursuits. Teachers are trying to get a jump on academic learning before the onset of spring fever which seems to hit our sixth graders particularly hard! After spring break, we begin assessing student progress and program effectiveness through end-of-year state and local testing.

Following this letter is the fifth and sixth grade *Day in the Life* letters. We are on the fifth letter written, this one by Madison Davis from the perspective of four-year old Katie. Next month, the final letter pulls together the events and characters introduced in preceding months' letters.

In closing, I would like to share a general concern about student use of social media. Teachers recently discovered videos on students' social media that included names and pictures of students at Tinmouth. These accounts were reported and the videos were removed. In the process, our technology expert and school librarian, Mr. Bertelloni, shared the following information that parents and community members may find useful:

How safe is TikTok?

Using any social network can be risky, but it's possible for kids to safely use the app with adult supervision (and a private account). TikTok has different rules for different ages:

- Users under age 13 can't post videos or comment, and content is curated for a younger audience.
- For kids age 13 to 15, accounts are private by default. Only friends can comment on videos, and other users can't duet (explained below) with your videos.

- Only users age 16 and over can livestream and use direct messaging, and only users over 18 can buy, send, or receive virtual gifts.
- In March 2023, TikTok announced a time limit of 60 minute/day on users under 18, requiring a password to be entered for further access to the platform.

TikTok also offers some tools for parents and caregivers to further limit how much time kids spend on the app and what kids can see. Parents and caregivers can also use Restricted Mode to reduce mature content, or Family Safety Mode to pair their account with their kid's account to control settings completely.

The following site provides information on various social media platforms and how to restrict children's access and the access of others with predatory intent to children's social media accounts.

<https://www.common sense media.org/articles/parents-ultimate-guide-to-tiktok>

On a more positive note, this month's book review by Sati-Mei Viveiros on the book, *Badger's Parting Gift*, is a must read!

"Spring drew on...and a greenness grew over those brown beds, which, freshening daily, suggested the thought that Hope traversed them at night, and left each morning brighter traces of her steps."

— Charlotte Brontë

Welcome Spring!

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.

**“A Day in the Life of a Family in 1930
4-year Old Katie”**

by Madison Davis, Grade 6

I woke up to the sound of dishes clanging and the sun shining in my eyes. They were bloodshot and irritated and the sun made them worse. I started to cry as I heard Ma come to get me, then Ma brought me downstairs and laid me on the couch and gave me some milk to calm me down. When I finish my milk I give Ma my cup and ask if Aunt Sally is home. I really missed Aunt Sally and I did not get to see her in the morning, she replies with, “No but I will be visiting her later to give her lunch”.

After I asked Ma, I wanted to play so I asked my big brother Joey if he could play with me, but he said, “Sorry, not right now, maybe later”. I realized I had to do chores so I grabbed the food pail for the chickens and went outside to feed them. Then after I fed them I was all tired and I saw the chicken’s water pail had food in it so I had to wash that out. So I went back inside to wash my hands and clean the chicken bucket for their water.

I sat next to Grandma Ellie when I was done with my chores and I did not have anything else to do. I had finished all my chores so I started to get bored of just sitting around. Because I was bored, my lungs were hurting and so were my eyes, I went to Grandma Ellie and asked her where Ma was. She said, “She just went to give Aunt Sally her lunch, she will be back soon”. So I say “Ok” with a sigh.

I was still upset that Aunt Sally was gone and I did not get to say hi or goodbye to her this morning and now Ma was gone. I decided to go out to the barn to see Joey, I saw the barn swaying back and forth.” What is happening to the barn”? I thought. I ran to the barn wondering why it was swaying and thinking maybe I could have super powers and stop the barn from swaying. As I was running toward the barn, I saw a big black cloud of dust coming right for me. The first thing that came to my mind was to get to the house. Ma taught me that if there was ever a dust storm get to the house.

My itchy eyes were hurting me so bad but I wanted to see if Joey was ok. Then I tried to scream Joey’s name but then I saw a dark shadow run toward the house. I did not know what it was so I still ran to the barn. When I got to the barn, I noticed that Joey had locked the cows in already and Joey was nowhere to be seen. So then I tried to escape because I was in the barn and I did not have to save Joey anymore but part of the barn door had fallen on my leg. I looked back at my leg to see it cut and that I had splinters all up my leg. My leg was also bleeding so I covered it up with my dress. My leg was so sore and I was so stuck, I tried to scream for help but my dust filled lungs made it so hard to yell. That was the last thing I remembered before I passed out.

Suddenly I heard Aunt Sally screaming for me. “I am alive” I say with relief. I quickly turn over onto my back

and try to pull my leg out of the door that I was trapped under. It was not working so I screamed as loud and as hard as I could so Aunt Sally could hear me. It hurt my throat so bad but I needed help. Then, Aunt Sally came through the barn and helped me out. She heard my voice and I was so relieved. After she helped me out she picked me up and carried me inside.

~ Book Review ~

Badger’s Parting Gifts

Review by Sati-Mei Viveiros, Grade 1

My favorite book was, *Badger’s Parting Gifts*. I like this because Badger is very nice and he always helps his friends.

This book is available in the children’s Lending Library Box located outside the double doors of the Community Center.

~ PreK Program Enrollment Reminder ~

Tinmouth residents are given **priority enrollment** for the Tinmouth Mountain School preK program up until May 15th.

After May 15th, enrollment is open to anyone not living in Tinmouth. There is currently a waitlist of non-residents waiting to enroll.

Any questions, please call the school at 802-446-2458.

~ Community News ~

Get Well Wishes are sent to **Caleb Scott, Shannon Squier, John Squier, Elouise Hauserman, Mary Tremmel, and Bob Noble.**

Heartfelt Sympathies are sent to family and friends of **Harry Constantinos**; to **Charlie White and family** for the loss of his Dad; and to **Gunner Morris, Clayton Morris, and family** for the loss of their brother Larry.

Congratulations to Tinmouth’s newest newlyweds, **Hogan Ringger and Abigail Virkler**, who were married on March 11th.

Best Wishes for many years of happiness!

Kudos and Congratulations (belatedly) to **Emma Weatherhogg and Wheaton Squier** for being named Southern Vermont League Coaches of the Year last spring. They coach Mill River High School’s Ultimate team. (Ultimate = Frisbee)

~ WALLINGFORD RESCUE NEWS ~

By Rita Reynolds

In 1986 a couple of members of Wallingford Rescue, Inc. presented an idea to the group about a money maker. It was a 50/50 Raffle that would involve selling 200 tickets to townspeople and friends, have a public drawing at the Boys Camp, give away door prizes that were donated by local businesses, and find out who the money winners were. The goal was to spend 50% of the money on expenses and money prizes and have 50% for profit.

The members thought it was a good idea and the Wallingford Rescue 50/50 Raffle was born. We were not sure how the public would react but we did sell all 200 tickets and had door prizes generously donated. It was a success! So much of a success that we made it an annual event 33 times over. It expanded to 225 tickets, almost 75 door prizes and many memories made. Then of course the unthinkable happened, COVID 19. In 2020, 2021, and 2022 the 50/50 Raffle was not held for obvious reasons. This year we got together to go over all of our past records. In the past three years we have lost many 50/50 faithful ticket purchasers as well as longtime members that have helped us faithfully.

When we first started the 50/50 it was a fundraiser but it really turned into much more than that. It became the Social Event of the Summer, held on the shores of Elfin Lake on a beautiful warm evening, meeting up with friends, enjoying delicious food, and just having a good time. The Rescue Squad took great pride in planning this event every year, putting 100% effort into every detail. We were always proud to do this for the Wallingford people and beyond.

However, things have changed since COVID, some things that will never be the same again. We are a volunteer organization and there is a shortage of active members. This has come at the same time when the need for a Rescue Squad has increased. Which means that the call volume has risen to almost double of what it was before COVID and we have half as many responding members to take care of this. So we just do not have the extra time to give 100% to planning the 50/50 Raffle. We will not try to start it up again.

However, if there is an organization that is interested in holding this event as a fundraiser some members of Wallingford Rescue would be more than willing to help you get started. Please contact us by calling 802.446.3942 or speaking to any of us for more information.

We say **THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS FOR ALL OF THE GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT YOU HAVE SHOWN US THROUGH THE YEARS.**

WE LOVE YOU ALL!!!!

Please Recycle or Pass Along Tales!!

To Tinmouth Residents,

*You are invited to celebrate my Mother, (Cathy Ricketts)'s 80th birthday! All of her friends are invited also. Her party will be held **Saturday, May 20th** at the Tinmouth Community Center, from 10 AM until 6 PM.*

*Please bring a dish of food to share. Please let us know (RSVP) by **May 15th** if you plan to attend.*

Call Cathy at 802-775-294? Extension 203 or you can send her a note c/o Rutland Rehab at 46 Nichols St, Rutland, VT 05701.

She will have her 2 great grandchildren there also.

Tina Butler

We plan to eat at 12 noon. No alcoholic beverages and no smoking allowed.

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You may be eligible for free tax help through the IRS, AARP, or MyFreeTaxes.com
To learn where to find tax help, visit tax.vermont.gov/free-prep

Email: tax.individualincome@vermont.gov

Phone: (802) 828-2865 or (866) 828-2865 (toll-free in VT)

tax.vermont.gov

Revised 01/2023 Publication FL-1167



~ Meeting Highlights ~

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

Select Board ~ 3/9/2023

Present were members Meadow Squier, Judy Gilmore and Kevin Eaton, in-person, as well as Eric Buffum, Michael Fallar (briefly), and Gail Fallar also in person, and via zoom - Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Rick Fallar, Pat Psholka and Nancy Gucker Birdsall.

Board Re-organized for 2023 as follows:

Elected Meadow Squier - Chair

Set Regular Monthly Meeting - 2nd Thursday @ 7:00

Designated Signer for Bills and Orders – Chair (Meadow)

Newspaper of Record – Rutland Herald

Adopted Robert’s Rules for Small Boards

Appointed Overweight Truck Permit Signer - Kevin

Appointed Member to Community Center Board - Judy

Appointed Member to Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project

Board – Meadow

Appointed Member to the Website Committee - Judy

Appointed Liaison to Public Works Facilities Project

Manager - Kevin

Appointed Liaison to Rutland County Sheriff’s Dept. -

Kevin

Adopted Select Board Meeting Rules and Procedures

Citizen’s Input – Michael asked the Board to recognize the limitations of a small town’s ability to afford everything.

Highway – Eric reported the road crew has been busy patching pot holes, plowing snow, and the grader had another broken rim (fixed it). Guidelines for using the town’s debit card and purchasing used equipment were bumped to the April meeting.

Eric advised the VTRANS grant application is still a work in progress, would like to apply for paving as well as structure, to replace the culvert near the Patrys on North East Road -waiting for a hydraulic study for that.

Sherry reviewed draft grant for the AARP grant for speed feed-back signs near the school zone. After discussion, Board approved with condition that Judy review and approve final copy.

Financial Reports – Board reviewed reports and warrants, after questions and discussion, approved both.

Cash Receipts, Petty Cash and Returned Checks and Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting Policies were reviewed and approved.

Kevin reported the Speed Limit Committee had met for the first time, discussed the RRPC speed studies, speed feed back signs, and had invited the County Sheriff and Deputy to their next meeting.

Annual Appointments – after brief discussion, Board tabled until April meeting. Asked the SBA to post request looking for volunteers again. Board dissolved the ARPA and Tree Policy Committees – no longer needed, and created a Recreation Committee.

Board approved termination of the Purchase and Sales Agreement with the Strattons regarding the right of way on Mountain View Road, as moving its location was not agreeable.

Board signed and sealed the 2022 Grand List.

Cathy had sent an email regarding the EOC Generator Grant indicating procurement requirements were being waived, no bid required as the town already had two quotes.

Planning Commission ~ 3/16/23

Present were members Michael Fallar, Rainbow Squier, Judy Gilmore, Andy Gilmore, in-person; and Kim Harbaugh, Bob Lloyd, Pat Psholka, Vito Macaluso, and Larry Carabeau via zoom.

Also present in person were Ed Bove, Rutland Regional Planning Commission and Gail Fallar, Sec, and via zoom Sherry Johnson and Nancy and David Birdsall.

PC re-organized - required after town meeting. Michael was re-elected Chair, Bob was re-elected Vice Chair and Gail was re-appointed Secretary.

Ed updated members on the progress of work on the town plan, noting there is new information coming about energy but it has not yet been released by the state. There was much discussion about the energy section – it was updated in 2020 to make it “enhanced” which means the Town Plan is given more weight when there is an application for a big energy project that has to go before the Public Utilities Commission. Should it be changed back to pre-2020; use the existing until updated data is available; or work to bring it up to new regulations? Members agreed for now to keep the current Energy Section and update it in the future.

The Select Board’s adopted *Statement of Values* was discussed – some members spoke to including it in the town plan and other members spoke to the Town Plan’s Objective #4 – which has been there since the town plan was adopted in 1974, which they feel says the same thing – everyone is welcome. In the end, members decided to invite the Equity and Inclusion Committee to meet with them to discuss it at their June meeting.

Conservation Commission ~ 2/27/23

With thanks to Chuck Bronk, Sec.

Members Present: Ed Hasenohr, Rainbow Squier, Doug Fontein (Zoom), Robbie Leeds, Colleen Balch (Zoom), Jeff Ams, and Chuck Bronk.

Public Present: Gail Fallar.

Agenda was reviewed and several additions made. Doug Fontein suggested that we should discuss the upcoming Green Up day, and Gail added two items to the agenda, a submission from Roy Pilcher and the discussion of the Select Board’s desire to create a Recreation Committee.

Ongoing Business:

Rainbow and Doug Fontein provided a re-cap of the very productive work day which took place on November 20, 2022. Firewood was cut for use at the Tinmouth Mountain Cabin. Rainbow noted that the seat of the latrine appears to have been eaten by a porcupine and requires replacement. In addition to attendance of several Commission members, several non-members also attended. Sweet treats were enjoyed by all.

Doug noted that there will be one more meeting before Green Up day which is scheduled for May 6, 2023. He agreed to be responsible for the delivery of tables, maps, the easel from Town Hall, his trailer for hauling large items, and the usual safety recommendations. Chuck Bronk agreed to be responsible for prizes for young participants, vests, updating the map of road coverage and calling Adopt-a-Road participants from last year. Colleen Balch agreed to cover the table for the duration of the event. Robbie Leeds agreed to provide nitril gloves for participants. Rainbow agreed to produce the prize poster, and Ed Hasenohr agreed to provide ice cream as they have in past years.

Last year virtually all roads in Tinmouth were covered with the exception of West Tinmouth. It was agreed that we should publicize the need for additional coverage there. There was a discussion of what to do if it rained and Ed agreed to ask Eric Buffum, Road Commissioner, if there was a chance to set the table up inside either the old garage or the new one. Dumping of large trash items has been noted in the past on the class 4 section of Gulf Road, but it was agreed that dealing with those items was beyond the Commission's capacity during Green Up day. The matter was tabled to a future meeting and probably would require a work day.

Rainbow recapped the Select Board's meeting and site visit to explore walking access to the Town property South of the Transfer Station, from the Old Creamery.

Gail asked the Commission how they felt a Recreation Committee should be appointed by the Select Board. Either as part of the Conservation Commission or as a separate committee? It was generally agreed that the Conservation Commission had sufficient purview, and that a separate committee should be formed. Individual members could elect to participate on both.

On the matter of amphibian road crossings in the Spring, it was the consensus of the discussion that the Commission needed to further survey the crossing points and vernal pond locations. All agreed that additional signage was required. Gail reported that the Commission had a reserve fund of \$1,000.

Gail presented a folder to the Commission from Roy Pilcher, containing a survey of birds, butterflies, and plants in various places in Tinmouth from about 2009, that he had observed. Mr. Pilcher was on a field trip to the town office from The Gables, arranged by Bob Lloyd.

Website Committee ~ 3/4/23

With thanks to Nancy Gucker Birdsall

Members present via zoom – Cathy Reynolds, Nancy Birdsall, Logan Birdsall, Todd Dennis and Sherry Johnson. Also present was Zach Bronzo and Gail Fallar, in person – it was a very snowy day.

Zach Bronzo introduced himself and agreed take on the system administrator work for the town website. Todd will be the main communicator with Zach regarding website needs.

Updates: Cathy brought up that the website needs to include a page for RFP / Procurement documents.

Generate guidance for Select Board:

- Todd will re-present the tinmouthvt.gov website application to the Select Board in April, as no action was taken in 2021 when the SB approved the switch because of the billing cycle for the current domain and site. Zach is in support of this change.
- Todd will look in to whether email is available through the .gov domain, for use by the town and select board members and possibly committee chairs.
- Cathy will review and update the 2008 Website Policy, to present to the Select Board in April. Committee members will send updates to Cathy for editing or inclusion in the policy.

Other business: Logan stepped down from the Committee, but offered to help from a distance (she moved) with uploading documents and agendas if needed.

(Editor's Note: Later, Nancy and Sherry also stepped down from the Committee.)

Equity and Inclusion Committee ~ 3/21/23

(No minutes received to date; this is a brief report.)

Members present in-person were Meadow Squier, Michael Fallar, and Lothar Schmelzenbach; via zoom were Kim Harbaugh, Rainbow Squier, and Melody Squier. Others: in person – Gail Fallar: via zoom – Sherry Johnson, Logan Birdsall, and Rick Fallar.

Committee re-organized, re-elected Meadow as Chair and Todd Dennis as Vice Chair. Rainbow volunteered to act as Secretary until someone else volunteered. (Logan resigned due to moving.)

Michael, as Planning Commission Chair, advised that the PC, in updating the town plan, was having discussions about whether to include the Select Board's *Statement of Values* and decided to invite the E & I Committee to a PC meeting to discuss it further. There was much discussion about this invitation. Meadow had prepared a draft regarding the State's *Declaration of Inclusion* and the town's *Statement of Values* as a starting point for more discussion. Members wanted to involve the community, wondered how to best do that, and decided to work on

this for a couple of months. They were willing to meet with the PC in the fall.

Discussed two Welcome signs, Melody and Sherry will write an application for a Community Fund grant to cover the costs. Select Board will need to approve – proposed for Route 140 – one near the Wallingford town line and one at the intersection of Routes 133 and 140.

Working Group report – Mutual Aide advised they have divided the Operators Manual into sections for review by organizations/entities as they continue on the update.

Members discussed how to recruit two new positive minded members (Logan and Sherry have resigned.) Logan suggested the E & I re-define its goals – some things tried worked, some did not, re-work the mission statement.

Next meeting is May 16th.

Speed Limit Committee ~ 3/30/23

Present were members Kevin Eaton, Jeff Warfle, Hollis Squier, Sherry Johnson(via zoom), Tracy Byford, and Ray Pratt, as well as Lt. Kevin Geno – Rutland County Sheriff's Department, Kim Harbaugh (via zoom), and Gail Fallar.

Members discussed the latest analysis of last summer's speed study from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission which indicated time and frequency of speeders – most are on the East Road, 7-9 AM and 4-8 PM.

Lt. Geno discussed various options for addressing speed limits, enforcement, speed feed-back signs, the need to update the Traffic Ordinance, and education.

Jeff reported that to add step down speed changes near the school zone could take two years, and that he found a good model for an ordinance.

Members will be working on updating the ordinance at their next meeting – April 20th.

~ 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. 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. You may also be able to watch debate live via video links.

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

Wallingford Town Hall Concert Series Presents

The Sky Blue Boys

Wednesday, April 12th, 2023



WALLINGFORD - The Sky Blue Boys, a duo comprised of Willy and Dan Lindner (who formed Banjo Dan and the Mid-Nite Plowboys), will perform at Wallingford Town Hall at 75 School Street in Wallingford on Wednesday, April 12th at 7:00 pm. The duo has built up a large repertoire of wonderful old ballads, parlor songs, heart songs and sacred numbers.

The Sky Blue Boys have expanded the accompaniment to include a variety of acoustic instruments and added many newer songs including several of their own compositions.

Suggested donations of \$10 to \$15 per person at the door. Please support local live music and attend the Sky Blue Boys concert on Wednesday, April 12th.

~ Dog Licenses Due April 1st ~



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 1st. You can also license them by mail if you wish.



~ EASTER EGG HUNT ~

Sunday, April 9th
at the Timmouth Community Church
following the 9:00 am Easter Service.
All are welcome!

Bears are Becoming Active, Vermonters Need to Take Steps to Prevent Conflicts

MONTPELIER, Vt. – The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has begun to receive reports of bears coming out of their dens as the weather warms.

Bear incidents have been on the rise over the past several years. 2022 saw high numbers of bear home-break-ins, and two bear attacks. Officials believe this trend is a result of Vermont's healthy black bear population learning to associate people and food over multiple generations.

“Preventing bears from having access to human-related foods is key to successful coexistence with these long-lived and intelligent animals,” said Jaclyn Comeau, Vermont Fish and Wildlife's bear biologist.

The department asks Vermonters to take the following proactive steps for coexisting with bears:

Take down birdfeeders between late March and December

- Store garbage in bear-proof containers or structures—trash cans alone are not enough
- Follow the steps on our web page for [composting in bear country](#)
- Use [electric fences](#) to keep chickens and honeybees safe
- Request a bear-proof dumpster from your waste hauler
- Feed your pets indoors
- Never feed bears, deliberately or accidentally

“Now is the time for Vermonters to take down our birdfeeders, make sure our garbage is secure, and protect our backyard chickens and bees with an electric fence,” said Comeau. “This will help teach bears that our yards and neighborhoods are not good places to search for food—but it will only work if everyone does their part.”

Vermont Fish and Wildlife also asks Vermonters to submit reports of bears engaging in potentially dangerous behavior like targeting birdfeeders and garbage, feeding on crops or livestock, or investigating campgrounds. Reports can be submitted on the department's [Living with Black Bears web page](#). The data help biologists keep track of bear incidents and provide early interventions to head off conflicts.

“At the end of the day, purposely feeding a bear is not just bad for the bear,” said Comeau. “It is also dangerous for you, it causes problems for your neighbors, and it is illegal. If bears are finding food on your property, it is your responsibility to remove that attractant and report a problem before the situation escalates.”

“Practice Random Acts of Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty”

~ Front Porch Forum ~ Connect with your Tinnmouth 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 Tinnmouth 911 address.

Save the Date!

Mount St. Joseph Academy will be hosting its Annual Live & Silent Auction

IN PERSON this year!

Please join us on Saturday April 29, 2023 from 6 pm -10 pm in the Martin McDonough Gymnasium at Mount St. Joseph Academy.

Tickets are \$15 per person, with a cash bar available (21 and older only); light Hors d'oeuvres; 50/50; and plenty of time to dance with MC Sounds!

You are able to purchase tickets through the Development Office at 802-775-0151 ~ Ext. 2015 or via Email to Carly Ward at cward@msjvermont.org. Further, auction item donations are still being accepted. Please use the above contacts to do so! Vast appreciations.

We look forward to seeing you there! <https://www.msjvermont.org/>



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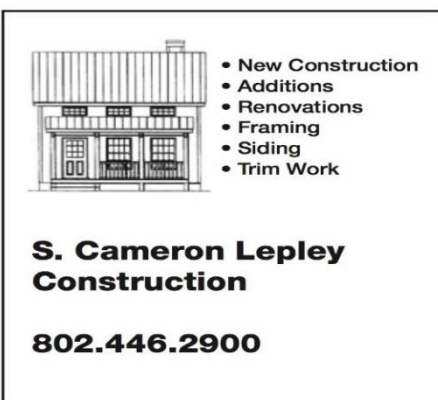
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~ Bess Lewis ~
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 Pastor John (Tinmouth Community Church) is only a phone call away.
Any reason is a good reason to call: 802-417-1491.

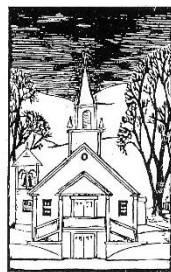
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Please leave a message, as the road crew most likely will be out working on the roads.



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~ April 2023 Calendar of Events ~



Dog Licenses Due	Saturday	1 st	9-Noon	Town Office
Select Board – Special	Monday	3 rd	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
Fire Department	Thursday	6 th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
Good Friday Service	Friday	7 th	7:00	Community Church
Easter Service	Sunday	9 th	9:00	Community Church
Easter Egg Hunt	Sunday	9 th	Following the Easter Service	
Conservation Commission	Monday	10 th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
Select Board	Thursday	13 th	6:30	Town Office/Virtual
<i>Tales of Tinnmouth</i> Deadline	Thursday	20 th	Don't Miss It!	
Speed Limit Committee	Thursday	20 th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
Planning Commission	Thursday	27 th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual



~ May 2023 Calendar of Events ~

Fire Department	Thursday	4 th	7:00	Fire House
Green-Up	Saturday	6 th	8:30-11	All Town Roads
Select Board	Thursday	9 th	6:00	Town Office & Zoom
Book Sale	Saturday	13 th	TBD	Old Creamery Porch
Plant Sale	Week of the 13 th - 22 nd		Squier Family Farm, McNamara Road	
Equity and Inclusion Comm.	Tuesday	16 th	7:00 -8:30	Town Office & Zoom
Planning Commission	Thursday	18 th	7:00	Town Office & Zoom
<i>Tales of Tinnmouth</i> Deadline	Saturday	20 th	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 All are welcome!** ~

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

The Planning Commission moved its April meeting to the 27th.

The Speed Limit Study Committee moved its April meeting to the 20th.

Vermont Trout Season
Opens Saturday, April 8th

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