

TALES OF TINMOUTH

September 2023
Vol. 37 Number 9

Tinmouth
Vermont

Editors' Notes: *Many thanks for recent donations – the cost of paper and postage keeps increasing! Your support is greatly appreciated.*

The deadline for submissions (news, items of interest, get well wishes, ads, 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

~ 2024 Reappraisal Reminder ~

By Gail Fallar, Lister Chair

In case you haven't heard or seen postings on Front Porch Forum and in *Tales*, or happened to see the appraiser out and about taking photos and measuring buildings, the Town of Tinmouth is conducting a town-wide assessment update of each and every parcel within the town borders for the 2024 Grand List. The Select Board hired Douglas McArthur, CAE, to consult with the Town Listers to do this work. The Vermont Department of Taxes has ordered the Town to do a re-appraisal. – along with dozens of other towns.

All properties will be visited for a site review and new photos will be taken. We would like to get an exterior photo of both the front and back of the structures on the property if possible. Photos visits should only take a few minutes and you do not need to be at your property when they are being taken. We are asking for and appreciate your cooperation during this process. We will do our absolute best to respect everyone's privacy and property.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to inform property owners in advance when their parcel will be visited. Weather, personnel schedules and other factors and other variables make it impossible to predict specific dates and times when a parcel will be visited.

This process began in August and will continue several days a week until all site visits and field reviews are complete. Office work will run through late fall and the winter months. In early Spring, all property owners will receive notice of a new assessment.

Mr. McArthur is an older gentleman, has a white pickup truck with decals, and he also has an ID. Most often, he will be accompanied by one of the Town Listers.

If you have any questions, please call or email the Town Office. 802-446-2498 or tinmouthtown@vermontel.net.

As Grampa John used to say, "The hurrier I go, the behinder I get!"

"The family of Arthur Usher invites family and friends to a joyful celebration of life on Saturday, September 16 at 1pm, at the Tinmouth Community Center, 573 Rte. 140, Tinmouth, VT."

~ From the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee ~

(Helen Mango, Secretary)

There have been reports from the Transfer Station of trash being thrown into various recycling receptacles, which contaminates the recyclable materials and increases costs for the town. Depending on external market prices for recyclables, Tinmouth gets paid for some of our recyclable materials, provided they are uncontaminated. When trash is mixed in with recyclables, it is then all considered to be trash, and Tinmouth has to pay to get it hauled away.

Please help keep costs down by putting trash only in the trash dumpster and putting recyclables only in their appropriate receptacles. For instance, only newspapers go in the newspaper gaylord (box).

Thank you very kindly for your cooperation!

~ 2023 Community Contact Information ~

Please see the insert mailed with this issue of *Tales*. It is a list of boards, commissions, committees and town officials, how to contact them, when they meet, etc. There is also contact information for State and Federal Representatives and Senators.

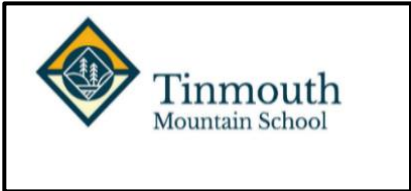
Please post near your phone/computer or on the refrigerator!

It is a bit late this year as some committees took longer to re-organize.

~ Community Center Coordinator ~

Please note that **Rainbow Squier** stepped down as the Community Center Coordinator, (thank you Rainbow for your service); and that **Trish Warfle** has stepped up to schedule community use of the Community Center, the Old Fire House and the Community Bake Oven.

Trish can be reached at 802-236-3163, or you can visit the town's website, tinmouthvt.org for more details.



August 25, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Wednesday, August 30th is the first day of school. This letter precedes the arrival of students and the focus will be on changes to curriculum and the After-School Program (ASP).

The District ASP is now under the direction of Theresa Serr. Lisa Barrett will continue as the director of the Tinmouth Afterschool Program. There are three significant ASP changes this year. These include the following:

* There will no longer be a before school program. Students can be dropped off at 7:40 AM at the front playground where two staff members will be present to supervise children.

* Early Release days are scheduled once a month. We encourage students to be picked up at noon. We also recognize that this is challenging for working parents. Therefore, there will be coverage from noon to 3:00 PM for students who cannot be picked up at 12:00 PM. The students will be supervised by paraprofessionals during this time frame. There is no ASP (from 3:00-5:00 PM) on Early Release Days. The reason for this is that the After School Program staff need to participate in professional development to familiarize themselves with regulations and retain their certification.

* Additionally, the ASP billing and attendance is entirely online using a software program devoted strictly to Tinmouth. This means that students will not be allowed to participate in ASP unless they are preregistered online. Parents can register their children online at <https://sites.google.com/millriverschools.org/afterschool/programs/after-school-home-page>

Bookworms literacy curriculum was introduced last year to interested teachers across the district. Over the summer most teachers were given professional development based on this program to support uniform implementation and strategy use. This professional development hones teacher’s instructional skill and will continue throughout the school year.

The current math program has been refined over the past few years and that refinement will continue to be the focus of monthly Early Release Day professional development.

District social studies and science mapping was initiated over the summer and the initial drafts will continue to be drafted and developed throughout the year.

Change can be challenging and I want to highlight that there has been no classroom teacher turnover at

Tinmouth. We have 2 new staff members. Our new librarian is Allison Cota. Our new special education teacher is Heather Kent. Both transferred to Tinmouth from within the district. Teacher longevity is critical to student success.

We have an experienced and compassionate staff at TMS that appreciate your ongoing support! Your generosity, thoughtfulness, and backing as a community are greatly appreciated!

Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker
Principal
Tinmouth Mountain School

~ Helpful Items for Loan ~

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

Please call 446-2498 to make arrangements.



Save the Date –
November 18, 2023

The famous Tinmouth Volunteer Fire
Department
Game Supper is on!!

November 18th
Tinmouth Community Center on Route 140 Tinmouth
Vermont
4pm-until all served
Early birds welcome

For more information call
Mo Squier 802-235-2718

If you have meat you would like to donate contact
Josh Allen 802-353-1857

Tinmouth GOP Caucus to meet on
Wednesday September 13, 2023
6:30 pm at the Old Firehouse
Town Committee Chair: Paula Bonazinga

~ Commentary ~

‘Out Here’

“Out here, living this way, the first thing you learn is we are not the measure of anything. We’re never going to win out here. Western civilization in the last 300 years has been built on the notion that man is the measure of all things. Man is the measure of absolutely nothing! Here, out in the country, everything is so alive. And because it is so alive and so permanent, and because it really is going to win — it’s going to bury us.... Even the fence posts are in the process of rotting. Life out here pushes in our doors.”

— Phyllis Tickle, from an essay, *The Meaning of Mud*, originally published in *The Life of Meaning*.

I love this quote, and can completely relate to it. We raised our family on a rural island in the Pacific Northwest. When some friends visited us from Los Angeles, they said, “Tell me again why you live out here?”

After our kids graduated high school, we moved to Boise, Idaho. It didn’t take us long to revel in our new small city life: no need for our emergency go bags, so few bugs, central AC, and we could walk everywhere.

Now we are in Tinmouth, feeling like we’ve come full circle. Arriving in mid-June, to heat and humidity, and then all that rain and flooding (not to mention bats in our house), we wondered if we made a huge mistake. “Tell me again why we moved out here?” I asked my husband.

It has been an adjustment, but we are remembering our rural roots. You have to live out here to understand, to know the depth of aliveness that comes from ‘being in the middle of nowhere.’

This slower way of life sharpens your awareness. The deep silence. The stars on a clear night. The fire flies like fairy lights dotting the forest behind our house. The hawks circling. The steady rhythm of the pileated woodpecker. The ever-changing clouds. The sweet smell of a newly hayed field. And oh, the green, green mountains.

Out here, you can’t wall yourself off from what’s right outside your door. You’re constantly reminded of your place in the natural world, that we’re not here to dominate but to co-exist. So in spite of the extreme heat and humidity, the flooding rains, and the bats in our house, we hope to settle here for a while, to find ourselves again in this special place called Tinmouth.

— *Cindy Pollock*

Please Recycle or Pass Along Tales!!

~ Library News ~

By Ruth Drachman, Librarian



The library is open on Thursday and the librarian is there from 2 until 5. It is also open the first Saturday morning of the month, from 10-noon.

~ Reminisces from Tinmouth Pond ~

Does anyone else have a fond memory of an adventure or event at Tinmouth Pond aka Chipman Lake?

Did you know that it was officially named Chipman Lake by the Vermont Legislature in the 1920’s? Local developers at the time did not think ‘Tinmouth Pond’ was not ‘sophisticated’ enough. ‘Chipman’ was chosen as Nathaniel Chipman at one time owned the farm at the north end of the lake, and was also a lawyer – he was a Vermont Governor, United States Senator, Vermont Supreme Court Justice, and helped get Vermont admitted as the 14th state. He lived in Tinmouth for a period of time in Tinmouth’s early days.

September Friends of the Rutland Free Library
Book Sale

10 Court Street, Rutland, VT 05701 802-773-1860

Friday, Sept. 11 (10 - 4) and Saturday, Sept. 9 (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

~ Community News ~

Get Well Wishes are sent to **Nelson Jaquay, Norm Gagne**, and everyone dealing with **covid** and other **respiratory troubles**.

Heartfelt Sympathies are sent to family and friends of **Esther Ballou** and to family and friends of **Jo Reynolds**.

John Squier sends his *heartfelt appreciation* for all the prayers, assistance, fund raising, condolences for the passing of his wife Shannon, trips to Boston (brother Marshall (Mo), recuperation care given (brother Hollis (Harley) and Alice), donations, and kindnesses, during his recent adventure of getting a new heart! It is now working great, and he is well on his way to recovery – he has started driving his car! **Thank you all for caring.**



TINMOUTH
CHURCH

~ **Tinmouth Community Church** ~

It seems that speaking one's truth, regardless of what others think (or feel), has become for many people a virtue and a badge of freedom, a license to say whatever we want to say, however we want to say it, to whomever we want to say it. We might be quite proud of speaking "the truth," even if we have not done our research and confirmed the facts, or thoroughly thought through the issue with the help of reputable persons and sources. It may not even occur to us that we know only in part and may be mistaken.

Speaking the truth is paramount. Healthy persons and loving relationships depend on it; unified and just societies depend on it. Given the extent of self-deception and duplicity in every tier of society, one wonders if truth-telling is much of a guiding principle anymore in our personal, social and civic lives. Even taking an oath over a sacred text matters little when it comes to the pursuit of self-justification, money and power. Without a sense of responsibility before God, even sacred texts are ineffectual in safeguarding the integrity of truth-telling.

It is crucial to our mutual well-being that we speak the truth. It also matters how we speak it. Presently in society, there is no shortage of people speaking their truth in tones and language that make it difficult to listen.

If we want to be heard, if we want credibility, we need to "speak the truth in love," the Christ-ethic admonishes. "In love," that is, with humility, with respect, non-defensively, non-aggressively, and with an open mind and open heart to what others have to say in reply. Then, even if we are mistaken or short-sighted, the deeper message can get through - that your sacred dignity as a person has been honored and that together we can ferret out the fuller truth.

I hope I have spoken some truth in love. What do you think?

**Blessings,
Pastor John**

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

~ **The View From Paduke's Porch** ~

By Phil Hepburn

Hi Tinmouth Neighbors. It's August 19, on a Monday and finally a few days without rain, thank you Mother Nature! I've seen a lot of deer moving with the rain. There are 2 mothers with fawns right between my cabin and our pond and I've seen a number of bucks in pairs and groups. So everyone keep in mind they move in the morning and evening so watch your speeds as you are going where ever ya need to go!

Take care & God Bless.

P.S. Well done job by our town crew on the new ditches on North End Road!



The Sam Hepburn family, early 1960's.
From left Shirley, Faye(Mom), Sam with Michael on his lap, Kathy and Barbie, missing is Donald. Before Phil's arrival!

~ **Justice of the Peace Appointment** ~

A question arose about Michael Fallar being appointed a Justice of the Peace after Nate Miner was elected, moved out of town and resigned. When that happens, the local Party (Democratic or Republican) Committee meets and sends a nomination to the Governor for his consideration to appoint a replacement. In this case Nate was elected as a Republican, so that local committee met and sent Governor Scott a recommendation. Governor Scott appointed Michael, ye olde town clerk had nothing to do with it.

~ **WiFi Hot Spot** ~

There is a WiFi Hot Spot next to the town office – FREE – look for 'Project Connect' on your device. It is unsecure, but available to anyone who wishes to use it. It beams toward the church and school, will also work in front of the town office.

You can also log onto 'Town Office Guest' as another option for free WiFi. Also at the Town Office.

~ **Meeting Highlights** ~

*Complete minutes are available at the town office.
Minutes are by Gail Fallar unless other-wise noted.
All highlights are edited by Gail Fallar.*

Select Board (SB) ~ 8/10/2023

Members present (in-person): Kevin Eaton, Judy Gilmore, and Meadow Squier

Others present:

In-person: Eric Buffum-Road Commissioner, Michael Fallar, Phil Hepburn, Hollis Squier, Devon Neary – Executive Director of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC), and Gail Fallar-Select Board Assistant (SBA)

Via Zoom: Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Pat Psholka, Rick Fallar, David and Nancy Birdsall.

Devon presented the SB with information about a new state funded program for small communities – Municipal Technical Assistance – to be provided by RRPC to help towns access stimulus (ARPA) dollars. While many of the proposed programs do not apply to Tinmouth – such as municipal water and sewer – he advised the SB to think outside the box to see how funds could be accessed to help in some way – town plan update, community assessment, shared municipal administration, etc. RRPC is developing a website regarding this new program. Devon will return in September to discuss more details. The SB has to agree to participate.

Draft Traffic Ordinance – Meadow noted that it did not reduce the speed limit, requested it be sent back to the Speed Limit Study Committee (SLSC) for further review. The SBA noted that the SLSC had recommended more enforcement and other steps due to information provided to the Committee by law enforcement and RRPC staff. Devon noted there were other ways to reduce speeders, speed feedback signs, public outreach programs, and that the RRPC would be willing to review the draft ordinance. Board decided to send it back to the SLSC.

Citizen's Input ~ Phil expressed concern with speeders on North End and Harrington Cross Roads, having seen close calls nearby.

Sherry thanked Eric for posting notice about upcoming paving on Front Porch Forum.

Highway ~

Public Works Update – Board discussed **painting the old town garage**, Kevin is willing to do it, estimated that it would cost \$6,800. Discussion about whether it should be advertised for possible other interested parties. Kevin and the SBA will work on an RFP for a special SB meeting on the 31st – SB would like the painting to occur this summer or fall.

TAP Grant Invoice – Board reviewed quarterly invoice prepared by Steffanie Bourque, MPM, and approved sending it to VTRANS for reimbursement.

Road Commissioner – Eric reported spot grading was being done, roadside berms were removed from the

southern end of the North East Road along with ditching, will add a culvert near the woods, needs to be seeded and mulched. Paving was done today; shouldering (graveling the roadside of the new pavement) will be done by Fuller Paving the next rainy day. The road crew will work on driveways next Monday (adding gravel to meet the new paving level).

He advised Grant-In-Aide (GIA) work was being done on the North End Road near the “S” turn – ditching, culverts will be replaced, stone will be placed in the ditches per state standards. Concerns were raised regarding that work and the condition it has been left in at the end of the day/work week. The ditches are really deep, there are no cones or signs posted to advise drivers to use caution. After much discussion, Judy offered to help Eric put out cones the next morning and take a look at the situation.

Board reviewed and edited the draft **RPF for the Safety Grant tree cutting**, more information is needed, SB will wait for the contract from VTRANS, placed on the agenda for September.

Eric requested the Board approve the purchase of a **used tractor and boom mower with a saw attachment** from Salem Farm Supply. It is for sale right now, \$64,068, would like to use ARPA money to buy it. This would be used to road side mowing and the attachment would enable the road crew to trim trees along the road side. Much discussion about the urgency, whether the decision could wait for a special meeting (no), review of Eric's proposal for it paying for itself over ten years with savings from not hiring a contractor to do the roadside mowing. Board voted to use ARPA funds to purchase the Case MU120 tractor with boom mower and the saw attachment for \$64,068.

FY24 GIA Contract – Board voted to ratify Meadow's action of signing the grant contract as it was time sensitive.

Hollis expressed concern with brush along Mountain View Road between Gilmore Road and the former Fish farm – without animals the brush will take over, asked the road crew to keep it mowed, as well on the East Road near Dick Blow's property.

New Business ~

Appointees: Board appointed David Levant and Martha Stanley to the new Recreation Committee, all voted in favor. Meadow and Kevin voted to re-appoint Sherry Johnson (she had resigned) to the Equity and Inclusion Committee, Judy abstained.

VT Department of Taxes Order to Reappraise – Board voted to accept the order, response will be a reappraisal is already in progress.

Community Center Parking Lot – Meadow asked Eric to address a culvert that has no reflector or sign, as someone broke their ankle last night when they fell into it.

Financial Reports – End of year reports are still pending.

Board voted to approve warrants and orders presented.

Waiver for Late Filed Homestead Declarations – Board voted to waive the penalty for late filed Homestead Declarations.

Feedback Forms ~ Meadow and Kevin provided copies of their written responses to Ed and Shirley Bucceri's feedback form regarding removing someone from the Equity and Inclusion Committee. They were filed in the Feedback Form 3-Ring binder. Judy did not respond as she had voted to not remove the individual.

Special Meeting – Board decided to have a special meeting on the 31st to discuss ARPA allotments and the To-Do List and a few other items.

Next Meeting Schedule ~ Special meeting August 31st, next regular meeting will be September 14th.

Select Board (SB) ~ 8/31/2023 Special Meeting

Members present (in-person): Kevin Eaton, Meadow Squier, and Judy Gilmore

Others present:

In-person: Eric Buffum-Road Commissioner and Gail Fallar-Select Board Assistant (SBA)

Via Zoom: Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Pat Psholka, and Rick Fallar

Public Works Update – Board reviewed and edited RFP for **painting the old town garage**. Board voted to approve as edited. Bids to be opened on 9/14.

Board reviewed request from Rick Smyrski – Morton Buildings, Inc – to sign-off on completion of the new town garage. Board reviewed warranty information in the contract, asked Eric for input – he advised the building was too small. Board voted to approve Morton's request, officially took possession.

Highway ~

Road Commissioner – Eric reported spot grading was being done, shouldering (adding gravel to road side of the new paving) was now complete. Road crew has been working on prepping sites for generators for the town office and fire department. Stormwater work is being done on Upper Gulf Road. He advised that the warning light on the town garage septic holding tank was alerting the need to be pumped, Board discussed having the town office tank pumped as well, authorized Eric to find vendor to do both, by consensus.

Board discussed using the new (used) tractor and boom mower to cut vegetation around the town garage and transfer station to improve its appearance. Eric advised it was still at the dealers – waiting for filters, expects to have it in a couple of weeks, will take care of vegetation then.

Financial Reports – FY23 End of Year reports are still pending. Board voted to approve the warrants and orders.

Old Business ~

Board reviewed **ARPA list**: deleted many of the requests. Unallocated balance is around \$69,000. Board

asked the Fire Department and the Old Creamery Committee to update their requests for SB meeting on September 14th. Will review and allocate more then. Board to get clean copy of expenditures, approved and pending.

To-Do Follow Up List – Board reviewed list, removed one or two items, updated others. Some may be appropriate for the Municipal Technical Assistance (MTA) program from RRPC – will discuss at the 9/14 meeting. Need to address notification and landowner's wood rights when trees are cut in the town's right of way. SB is waiting for Route 140 tree cutting grant paperwork, will work on RFP again on the 14th.

New Business ~

Recreation Committee - Board discussed briefly, would like to have them survey townspeople about what they want – MTA at RRPC may be able to help with a community assessment, also added to the 9/14 agenda.

Committee Updates to the Select Board – Board discussed having an annual report, perhaps written from each committee – no decision.

Personnel Policy – Annual Personnel Review – Board discussed, need to think about process.

Road Commissioner – Elected or Appointed – Board discussed, SBA noted it had been considered by a past SB, more research is needed.

Board voted to appoint Gail Fallar as the Town's **Voting Delegate** to the VLCT's annual meeting.

Member's Concern - Committee Appointments – Kevin expressed concern about the process for the recent removal of an Equity and Inclusion Committee member, noting committees should work out problems themselves – and only turn to the Select Board if an issue cannot be resolved. Meadow advised that it was she that asked to have Michael removed, not the E & I Committee. More discussion at 9/14 SB meeting – what do other town's do?

Next Meeting Schedule ~ September 14th.

Planning Commission ~ 8/17/23

Members present in-person: Michael Fallar, Vito Macaluso, Judy Gilmore, and Andy Gilmore

Members present via Zoom: Kim Harbaugh and Pat Psholka

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

Michael advised that Ed Bove has left the RRPC. Other RRPC staff members will help with updating of the town plan. He did provide a number of copies of work done to date for members to review.

Members discussed photographs for the new town plan, as Rainbow was not present, there was no update for possible photos from the Conservation Commission's photo contest. Vito noted he had a thumb drive with photos taken with the late Grant Reynolds – discussion of how to distribute them to members for review – could

they be uploaded to the town's website, create a link, download to the town's computer, etc.

Gail noted that Ed had advised that the legislature enacted major changes to zoning laws this session, including removing voter's rights to vote on zoning/subdivision/amendments. That authority now belongs only to the Select Board or legislative body of a town or city. Members will be provided with other statewide zoning changes enacted.

Town Plan update homework for next meeting – review town plan work done by Ed – make a list of what remains and what the PC can do.

Next meeting is September 21st.

Conservation Commission ~ 8/14/23

With thanks to Chuck Bronk, Sec.

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

Public Present: Gail Fallar.

Ongoing Business:

On the subject of the Photo Contest sponsored by the Commission at Tinmouth Fun Day, Rainbow reported that Todd Dennis was the winner. Colleen Balch counted the votes and reported there were 50 participants. All in all, the event was much appreciated. It was suggested that we talk up the Photo Contest at next year's Green Up day and include photos of people.

The Recreation Committee now has a total of 5 volunteers with the addition of Martha Stanley and David Levant to the 3 from the Conservation Commission. An organizational meeting has yet to be set by the Select Board along with a charge to the Committee. A discussion of how the two committees would work together or interact was tabled till after that occurred.

A discussion of ideas on how to further our conservation work followed. Jeff Ams commented that four areas of focus would be plants, animals, water, and land. Ed read a listing of the tasks of a conservation commission from the Municipal and County Government web site which included things like taking inventory, accepting gifts, advising other agencies, cooperating with same, and publishing a yearly report. Jeff suggested that we look at what other comparable towns are doing. Doug Fontein commented that we did that a number of years ago with Wallingford. Colleen said that we should consider the importance of invasives and their impacts. Rainbow reported that the Vermont Conservation Commission Handbook as well as the Tinmouth Town Plan had a number of salient points to consider. She suggested that we might increase our volunteer base by hosting a community gathering on a specific topic. Doug commented that invasives might well be that topic, but that we shouldn't try to do that along with Green Up day, as there is too much going on. Jeff said that we could

solicit requests from land owners to identify or remedy the spread of invasives. Colleen felt that the Commission could act as a resource connecting Town members to information on the web.

Regarding a fall work day, Ed reported that there are several large blow-downs on the Ridge Trail, at least one with a 36" diameter trunk, and that the bog bridges were in good shape. Doug felt that we should focus on clearing the blow-downs. Rainbow suggested, and all agreed, that September 23, 2023 should be the next work day. We would meet at 9AM in the school parking lot.

Other Business:

Next regular meeting be set for October 16, 2023.

Old Creamery Committee ~ 8/27/23

Members present in-person Michael Fallar, Vito Macaluso, and Stan Wilbur

Others present were Gail Fallar - in-person, and Sherry Johnson via Zoom

Financial report: \$6,333 in check book, includes a \$750 grant from the Tinmouth Community Fund (TCF) for continued work on the building.

Gail reported that the electrical work was underway, wiring and panel box installed – trench to be dug in a week or two. Kevin Eaton has nearly completed painting the east wall.

Members discussed a work day: pre-paint claps or buy primed; find someone to remove old claps on the south wall and replace with new ones; work on north side windows and the front door; best time for Stan is on Wednesdays.

Members discussed long term goal for use of building – most likely for a while, the main uses will be events under the porch and use of the storage room for the bake oven and storage for the Conservation Commission and others – including the Historical Society.

It was agreed that the interior could be covered in sheet rock to encapsulate the lead paint – the removal would be cost prohibitive. The storage room will have a new ceiling (needs joists) and sheet rock walls.

Members discussed asking the Select Board for more ARPA dollars, and for a yearly amount in the budget to continue work to complete the exterior and storage room – ramp and deck.

Members then toured the building to look at the wiring, painting, and worked needed. Members decided to ask the electrician to install a couple of lights under the porch.

Solid Waste and Recycling Committee ~ 8/15/23

With thanks to Helen Mango, Sec.

Members present: Wheaton Squier, Jonathan Czar, Chris Martone, Gail Fallar and Helen Mango.

Helen volunteered to continue as secretary, and Wheaton volunteered to continue as chair. Approved by consensus.

Chris reported on ravens at the transfer station: A new cover was installed and the ravens already made a hole in it. Next attempt is to install metal reflective materials to scare them off. Gail also suggested finding a roadkill raven to hang up to scare them off. Another possibility is to use chicken wire for a cover. The attendants will work on this issue.

After-hours disposal: Attendants reported that people were throwing trash on top of the dumpster cover after hours. First step: Put up a sign saying something like "Dumping only during transfer station hours." Second step: Put up cameras (which are fairly inexpensive). The attendants will monitor the situation.

Question: Does the town actually need a transfer station? The Select Board has asked the SWARC to look into this. What options are there? Is a town allowed to NOT have a transfer station? And if not, what is still required? What is the responsibility of the town concerning managing solid waste? What about a compactor? Are they still cost-prohibitive? What do other towns charge? What about recycling? Composting? Chris will contact the Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC) and gather information. Jonathan will do some online research as well.

The attendants report that sometimes trash is thrown in the wrong receptacle. This ends up costing the town. For example, the town gets paid for newspaper and general paper, but not if it's contaminated with trash. If it's contaminated, then we are charged for processing.

Gail reported that the Select Board appointed her to be an alternate to SWAC (Wheaton and Chris are the primary SWAC liaisons).

Gail reported that there will be some reconfiguration of the transfer station (lowering the level of where you drive so that it is below the top of the dumpster). This is to make the area safer and easier to use.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2023.

Speed Limit Study Committee ~ 8/24/23

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

Public present Phil Hepburn, Rainbow Squier, Cole Elmendorf, and Gail Fallar, and Kim Harbaugh (via zoom).

Kevin advised that the Select Board (SB) had sent a petition (originated by Phil Hepburn) for this Committee to review - to reduce the speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph on a portion of North End Road and Harrington Cross Road. And that the SB had also returned the draft traffic ordinance – wanting the Committee to take another look at Route 140 north of the center near Rainbow Squier's and Ali Jenkins' properties.

Phil spoke of his concerns for his grandkids and other children on those two roads. Rainbow and Cole expressed

concern regarding speeders on the section of Route 140 that passes their property. Rainbow read an email from Ali Jenkins as she was unable to attend or join by Zoom, also expressing concerns with difficulty pulling out of her driveway and speeding on 140. (Their properties abut each other.)

Members reiterated that the Lt. Geno from the Rutland County Sheriff's Department (RCSD) and Ethan Pepin, the traffic planner at the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, both agreed that lowering a speed limit does not slow speeders down – there has to be a change in the road way and that is not the answer in this instance or on the East Road. More enforcement is a much better option.

Jeff, also a police officer, advised again that a lower speed limit is not the answer, noting that the speed studies done show 85% of drivers are driving under the limit. He added that enforcement can result in family and friends getting tickets, fines of \$150 or more, points on licenses, increase in insurance costs, etc.

Sherry noted that signs of Children at Play, sometimes gives parents and care givers a false sense of security, as drivers do not always pay attention to them.

Much discussion regarding crash data, more or better speed enforcement (what does that mean – more tickets or warnings?), why Route 140 has different speed limits in different towns – it is 40 mph in Wallingford and Middletown Springs, but 50 mph in Tinmouth. It was noted that VTRANS did a safety project a number of years ago with signs, reflectors, etc. for all of Route 140 from Wallingford to Middletown Springs. That was when 50 mph signs were posted that caused alarm for some – though that had been the speed limit all along. Rainbow was adamant that she remembered it was 40 mph. It was also noted that a speed limit is the maximum, that road conditions often require drivers to go slower – curves for example, and that a driver could get a ticket for driving too fast for road conditions even if they were going under the posted limit.

It was noted that there are other factors that can be considered when setting a speed limit – not just the average speed of 85% of drivers. Members will try to collect some of this data before their next meeting. It was also advised that committee members and those requesting a change in the speed limits read the rules before the next meeting.

Members decided to ask the SB for more enforcement on North End Road – Kevin as the SB liaison with RCSD will make contact. Members decided to get crash data for the town from the RCSD, as well as asking the RCSD to locate their speed cart on Route 140 north of the center and for a time on North End Road, as a traffic calming measure as well as to collect data. They also decided to ask Ethan Pepin, RRPC, to attend their next meeting to help them develop a plan of action to recommend to the Select Board. Next meeting was set for September 26.

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~ Thank You from the TVFD ~

We were so happy to see everyone turn out for the Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department's Tag Sale.

We had more items than ever and raised over \$2,300 for the department.

The proceeds paid for the new freezer that we needed for the Game Supper which will be held on November 18th (details to follow).

Thank you to everyone who bought items, and donated things for the sale.

We would also like to thank the community volunteers who helped sort, price, set up and clean up. This is what makes Tinmouth a wonderful community.

THANK YOU!

Chuck Bronk, Tracey Byford and Sherry Johnson

~ Please BE Safe – Wear a Safety Vest ~

If you walk, run/jog, bike, or hike, (or even fix fences) along town roads, **PLEASE** make sure you wear a safety vest so anyone driving along can see you.

Sometimes you might be in the shadow of the trees and no one can see you! Thank you for your cooperation!

~ Nature Notes ~

90 degrees the first week of September!! A heat wave no less, 3 or more days of 90 degrees in a row. Farmers got their hay cut and baled at long last!

Leaves are turning brown and falling like snow . . .

Nature's Bounty bins have been filled on and off with zucchini, cucumbers, summer squash and sweet corn !!

Thank you to all the gardeners who had extra this year and shared it!

Kim Young's Farm Stand,
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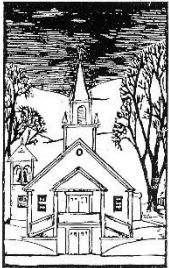
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will be giving
away FREE clothing on
Saturday, September 9th from
10 am to 1 pm. Anyone, no
matter what town you live in, is
welcome to come by.**

~ September 2023 Calendar of Events ~

Town Wide Tag Sales	Saturday	2 nd	9 - 3	All Around Town
Town Office	Monday	4 th		Closed for Labor Day
Fire Department	Thursday	7 th	7:00	Fire House
GOP Caucus	Wednesday	13 th	6:30	Old Fire House
BCA – Re: Voter Checklist	Thursday	14 th	6:45	Town Office/Virtual
Select Board	Thursday	14 th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
Art Usher Celebration of Life	Saturday	16 th	1:00	Community Center
Website Committee	Tuesday	19 th	7:00	Town Office
<i>Tales of Tinnmouth</i> Deadline	Wednesday	20 th		Don't Miss It!
Planning Commission	Thursday	21 st	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
Work Day – Conservation Comm. Sat.		23 rd	9:00	Meet at C. Ctr. Parking Lot
Speed Limit Study Committee	Tuesday	26 th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
Solid Waste & Recycling Comm.	Thursday	28 th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual

~ October 2023 Calendar of Events ~

Fire Department	Thursday	5 th	7:00	Fire House
Select Board	Thursday	12 th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
Conservation Commission	Monday	16 th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
Planning Commission	Thursday	19 th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
<i>Tales of Tinnmouth</i> Deadline	Friday	20 th		Don't Miss It!
THGS Annual Meeting	Sunday	22 nd	1:30	Old Fire House

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!!* ~

~ **Discover Books Book Collection Box** ~ *Located at the Transfer Station near the Zero-Sort Recycle Bin.*

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