

# TALES OF TINMOUTH

February 2024  
Vol. 38 Number 2

Tinmouth  
Vermont

**Editors' Notes:** *The olde timers used to say, "On February 1<sup>st</sup> there should remain, half the hay and half the grain." (And hopefully half the wood pile!!)*

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

*Gail Fallar & Pat Psholka*

## FREE GAME SUPPER – Saturday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>

The Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department invites everyone to join them for a FREE Game Supper following the Informational Town Meeting. The meeting will be over by 5:00. If you can't make the meeting, come for supper!

There was a LOT of food leftover from the Game Supper in November, which they froze, and now would like to share it with the community! Venison and bear, pie, cider, and rolls will be provided. Please bring a salad or other dish to share if you can.

This meal will follow the Informational Town Meeting which starts at 3:00, at the Community Center. Live music from a local band will be there!! All are welcome, bring friends, family and neighbors! A fun time for all!!

## ~ Town Meeting 2024 ~

There will be an in-person and virtual (via *Zoom*) **Informational Meeting on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>** at 3:00 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.

## ~ Early/Absentee Ballots ~

To request an **Early/Absentee Ballot**, you must do so before **5:00 pm on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**. **Voted ballots must be returned by 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**. You can call the town office to request the ballots, 802-446-2498 or send an email to tinmouthtown@vermontel.net.

You can also vote **early** at the town office starting mid-February.

## ~ Town Reports ~

The town reports will be mailed around the middle of the month. Please read them and bring/use them for the Informational Town Meeting on **Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**.

## ~ Officers to be Elected ~

The following filed petitions and consent forms to run for office. There is only one contested race – for Select Board. You are welcome to run as a Write-In candidate if you wish.

*Moderator* - Holly Ross

*Select Board Member* - Micheal Fallar & Melody Squier

*Road Commissioner* – Eric Buffum

*Community Center Board Member* – Martha Stanley

*Lister* - Pat Psholka

*Auditor* – Gene Usher

*Tax Collector (Delinquent)* – Cat Yoder

Budgets and public questions will also be voted by Australian ballot. Included in the public questions this year will be the annual allotments for service agencies – such as the Visiting Nurses and the Fire Department. The Select Board decided to give voters a chance for input on these requests. They have been part of the budget for many years, after first having been approved by voters at town meeting.

## ~ 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) and your driver's license or other photo ID.

## ~ Mill River Unified Union School District ~

MRUUSD will hold its **Annual Meeting on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>** at Mill River High School Library at 7:00.

Voting on the budget will occur on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Copies of their Annual Report are available online at [www.mruusd.org](http://www.mruusd.org). There are a few paper copies available at the Town Office.

## ~ 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.

~ Candidates' Forum ~

Melody Squier and Michael Fallar are both running for the open Select Board seat. Here are their thoughts.

Hello Tinmouth Residents,

As many of you know, I, **Michael Fallar**, am running for selectman, and I want to take this opportunity to speak directly about what I bring to the table and what my plans are for our town.

For those who know me, you're aware of my deep involvement in our community. Over the past 20 years, my role on the planning commission has given me insight into Tinmouth's development needs and opportunities. My previous term as a selectman, involvement with the Tinmouth Historical Society, and dedication to the Old Creamery Committee have allowed me to connect with our heritage and work towards preserving it.

Additionally, as a member of the Parents Club and the Four Winds program at Tinmouth School, I've engaged directly with our town's future—our children and their education. This diverse range of experiences has not only contributed to my understanding of our town's needs but also the unique challenges we face. It's this background and commitment that I bring to the table, ready to serve Tinmouth once more.

My background in local governance and community development isn't just for show—it's practical experience I've gained by being actively involved in making decisions that affect us all. I've worked hard to ensure that our community doesn't just grow, but improves in ways that matter to every resident.

I'm here to ensure that our town's administration is transparent, our fiscal management is sound, and our development benefits everyone.

I understand that leadership is about action and results. It's about making sure that every decision taken is in the best interest of Tinmouth. I'm committed to maintaining our town's integrity and ensuring that our future is not just secure, but thriving.

For those of you who have seen my work, you know what I stand for. For those of you who haven't, I ask for your trust and your vote to continue making Tinmouth a place we're all proud to call home.

Let's work together for Tinmouth. I would appreciate your vote and support.

Any questions, please call me at 802-446-2780.



~ Candidates' Forum ~

Melody Squier and Michael Fallar are both running for the open Select Board seat. Here are their thoughts.

Hello fellow Tinmouth community members. My name is **Melody Squier** and I am running for a seat on the Select Board. Three years ago I was planning on running and then learned that my daughter, Meadow was also planning to run so I decided to wait.

Living in this community for 37 years and raising an amazing family with my husband Marshall, and now grandchildren is continually fulfilling. I have been a member of the Tinmouth Fire Department for 20 years, have served on the Community Fund Board for many years and have been involved with numerous community activities since living here. I have helped create several equine assisted non-profits whose mission is to provide peer to peer support for veterans, active military, law enforcement, fire personnel, first responders and their family members who are facing the deadly effects of unresolved trauma. Serving our community is important to me and I would like to hear from the voices of all residents and listen to concerns, ideas, suggestions to keep Tinmouth vibrant, innovative, safe, and solvent and keep unity in our community!

You can contact me at 802-235-2718 or [melodysquier@gmail.com](mailto:melodysquier@gmail.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

~ Letter to the Editor: ~

Dear fellow Tinmouth residents,

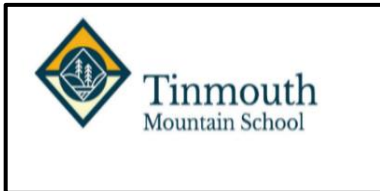
Tinmouth is one of five towns that support the Rutland Free Library. There are 139 library card holders from our town, up 9% in the past year. The Library is a busy place with record attendance & circulation,

**Please vote to support the Library on March 5th.** This year the Library will be a separate line on the ballot & not included in the total town budget.

As the President of the Board of Trustees & also a Tinmouth resident, I have been proud to be the town's representative to the Library for the past 5 years. This is a blue chip institution that sticks to its budget & is open to everyone.

Thank you!  
**Barry Cohen**  
President  
Rutland Free Library.





February 1, 2024

To the Tinnmouth Community,

January marks the start of our winter sports. Students are thriving this month and making the most of seasonal weather challenges.

The snow has been deep enough for sledding on the hill between the church and the school during recess. Playing broomball in our new ice rink is also a favorite recess activity. During outdoor classroom period, several classes are snowshoeing while observing animal tracks, scat, and animal adaptation during the winter season.

Additionally, our Winter Sports Program began on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Younger students skate at Spartan Arena. Older students chose to either skate, or snowboard and ski at Pico Mountain. A fresh layer of snow fell the night before the program began and the weather on the mountain was perfect – sunny and not too cold with perfect snow conditions. This program will continue on Mondays through to March.

In the classroom, students have completed mid-year assessments, which measure their progress in writing, fluency, comprehension, and decoding. These are some of the literacy skills students need to advance as solid readers and writers. Math progress is measured primarily through the STAR 360 assessment, which students complete three times a year. This assessment takes less than an hour and is online. Each problem solved correctly generates a more challenging problem. This provides a snapshot of each student's progress and informs individualized instruction.

Budget season is quickly approaching. ***It is anticipated that taxes will increase in Tinnmouth. Please note that this is largely due to recent real estate sales in town. The district tax rate is projected to increase minimally by roughly 0.07%. This increase is less than the annual inflation rate and is driven largely by rising health insurance costs.***

In February, school is closed for winter break from February 19<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please feel free to use the rink during the day this week and any weekend. The rink was built as a collaborative project between the town and the school. It is for Tinnmouth residents as well as students to enjoy. The town recreation committee is looking for volunteers to help maintain the rink (clearing and resurfacing the ice). Please consider volunteering.

Your support as a community is invaluable and significantly impacts the success of Tinnmouth Mountain School! The cost of building the ice rink was covered by

grant funds and donated materials from LaValley Building Supply. The construction of the rink was a labor of love. Students and staff deeply appreciate your ongoing support! Thank you!

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



~ Tinnmouth Community Church ~

WWJD. You may have heard of it. It's an acronym for "What Would Jesus Do?" It's a kind of ethical shorthand for making (moral) decisions, useful to the extent that we have a working knowledge of the life and teaching of Jesus and believe that the way of life he exemplified really does bring blessing. But given that Jesus' teaching was meant for everyone, let's change the letter "J" to "L". "L" stands for "Love", for "What Would Love Do?"

Afterall, love was the essence of Jesus teaching and the way of life he lived. Jesus summed up the teaching of the Law and Prophets of God saying, "Love God and love your neighbor as yourself." Would that we did so in our personal and collective lives. There is no other way of relating to one another by which we will save ourselves from ourselves.

Besides generally dismissing love as the criterion in our decision-making on how we will behave toward others, not everything we deem loving actually is. Which brings us back to Jesus. What love does, Jesus shows us. Ultimately, love is the giving of one's very life for the good of others, including one's enemies. That's what Jesus did and in so doing showed us the way to peace and blessing. There is no other way by which we are delivered from evil.

What would Jesus do, what would love have us do in our relating to ourselves and others in our families, religious and civic communities, corporate Board rooms, governments and their leadership? The way to abundant life for all has been shown to us. God empowers us as we trust the power of Love. It remains for us to live it out.

**Blessings,**  
**Pastor John**

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

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

10 Court Street., Rutland, VT 05701 802-773-1860  
**Friday, Feb. 9 (10 -2) and Saturday, Feb. 10, (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)

**~ 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 911 address.

**~ Nature Notes ~**

Gloomiest January on record, or so it seems. The  
weather people advised it's been 70 days since there was  
a full day of sunshine – November 17<sup>th</sup>. And then,  
surprise, on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, there appeared a brightness that  
had not been seen for soooo long!

There has been a week or so of fog – perhaps a cloud  
settled down upon this town?

And then there was a mud puddle slowly turning to ice,  
not flat ice, but ice that looked like little 2x4's, some at  
right angles, quite rectangular!!

Days are getting longer – it lighter earlier in the morning  
and stays light later in the afternoon – Spring is just  
around the corner . . . !!

**~ Transfer Station Notes ~**

Nearly 3,100 pounds of books have been recycled in the  
Discover Book Box!! Let's keep up the good work!

The attendants asked that you all be reminded that  
**ONLY** newspaper goes in the newspaper gaylord – there  
have been several magazines with your names on them . .  
and please don't put shredded paper in there.

Please do **not** put paper in the recycling bin – your  
names have been found in there too!! The zero sort blue  
bin is for glass, plastic and metal (which can also be  
deposited in the big metal roll-off). Paper is sorted into  
newspaper, cardboard and all other paper in the shed.


**Thank you for your cooperation!!**



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WE CAN CUSTOM MAKE SANDWICHES DURING THOSE HOURS OR THERE  
ARE PLENTY OF PREMADES TO GRAB AND GO!

WE WILL ALSO HAVE PIZZA - HOT DOGS AND SOUP OF THE DAY DURING  
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**BIGGEST AND BEST SANDWICHES AROUND**  
**COME VISIT AMBER AND TASTE FOR YOURSELF!**

STORE HOURS: MON-SAT 6:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M. SUNDAY 7:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

**~ Meeting Highlights ~**

*Complete minutes are available at the town office. Minutes are written by Gail Fallar unless otherwise noted. All highlights are edited by Ye Olde Editor.*

**Select Board (SB) ~ 1/11/2024**

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

Others present:

In-person: Michael Fallar, Eric Buffum-Road Commissioner, Marshall Squier, Melody Squier, and Gail Fallar-Select Board Assistant (SBA)

Via Zoom and phone: Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Rick Fallar, David and Nancy Birdsall, and Alex Hilliard

**Citizen's Input ~** Sherry requested meeting rules be followed to not allow comments during the meeting and asked that voting allotments individually should be put to voters in 2025 and that changing the road commissioner from elected to appointed should also be done by voters in 2025.

**Highway ~**

Eric reported the road crew is working on the insurance company's list. He requested permission to order the culvert for the grant project on North East Road near Patrys. He would like to get it done this spring. After brief discussion, Board voted to order the culvert.

West Tinnmouth winter maintenance was discussed – cost is much higher than expected or paid in the past. Board discussed options for next year, which included hiring Glenn or have a member of the road crew do it. Kevin and Eric will talk with the current contractor regarding expectations and cost.

FY25 Highway Budget – reviewed draft, made a couple of changes. Kevin moved and Judy 2nded to budget 3% for salary/wage increase, all voted in favor. Board will review and approve at meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Draft total stands at \$634,800. Board decided to add a separate article asking voters for an additional \$25,000 for paving. It's been budgeted at \$100,000 for several years, as the cost of paving goes up, the distance being paved is shrinking.

Board discussed the Equipment Replacement Fund – cost of trucks and equipment is rising faster than the fund is growing – process for purchasing needs to change – Allegiance Trucks bought all the International dealerships in New England – so there is no way to bid that truck. The State's bid this year is International, perhaps that is an option, an 18-24 month lead time is needed. Equipment needs to be bid separately as well, and there is only one dealer in the state – that also has an 18 month lead time.

Equipment Procurement Procedure – the Board voted to amend it to add trucks and/or equipment to the section dealing with state bids. Bid process is not required if the State bid is used.

Board reviewed VLCT PACIF's Risk Assessment Report on the new town garage. Eric advised they will begin to address the issues raised. One included a fire alarm system, at the time the town garage was being built it would have added \$11,000 so it was not installed. Eric will report back.

Potter's Brook culvert project, total cost was over \$72,000. State grant was for \$36,000 (80% of initial estimate of cost.)

Those present discussed salt/sand sheds, Ira recently completed theirs for \$250,000. Current estimate for the town is nearly \$1M. Board is going to meet with D&K, AOT, and Steffanie at RRPC regarding conceptual design of the salt/sand shed. Board decided to not hold a public meeting until after the above meeting.

**Financial ~**

Board reviewed FY24 reports and approved Bills and Orders.

**FY25 General Budget ~** Board reviewed proposed draft. Board voted to separate the annual allotments to service agencies as individual articles for town meeting, following discussion regarding how to contact them to let them know about the change, how often the review might be (3 or 5 years), and that it was giving voters a say regarding these allotments. Proposed budget of \$268,525 minus \$46,675 (allotments) = \$221,800 was approved.

**Grant Application Policy ~** After brief review and discussion, Board voted to adopt a Grant Policy. The Policy requires any town committee or commission to seek Select Board approval before applying for a grant. SB needs to be aware of any required matches that may be required.

**CLA Appeal ~** After brief discussion, Board voted to appeal the Vermont Tax Department's CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) and ask for a re-determination.

**ARPA Funds ~** After brief discussion, Board voted to allocate ARPA Funds \$25,000 to the Tinnmouth Volunteer Fire Department, \$20,000 to the Old Creamery Project, and \$15,000 to the Capital Building Reserve Fund.

**Special Informational Meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> (which was postponed to the 25<sup>th</sup> due to a winter storm) ~** Board will review budgets, advise voters about separating service agency requests, and hear from the Vermont Farmer's Food Center regarding their request for funding.

**Select Board Report for the Town Report ~** Board agreed by consensus to the report Meadow wrote.

**Members Concerns ~** Judy suggested a separate email for the bidding process. Concern was raised about the Town's website – it's now .gov, it was .org. Some folks are having trouble getting to it. There seems to be an older version on the Internet. Nancy suggested it might be one she started many years ago and will try to remove it.

## Select Board (SB) ~ 1/25/2024 Special Info Meeting

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

Others present:

In-person: Michael Fallar, Eric Buffum, David Birdsall, Greg Cox (Vermont Farmers Food Center), Marshall and Melody Squier, Larry and Cris Carabeau, Cathy Reynolds and Doug Fontein, Jan & Ken Krantz, and Gail Fallar-Select Board Assistant (SBA)

Via Zoom: Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Tracy Byford, Colleen Balch, Nancy Gucker Birdsall, David Levant, Joe Faucher, and Rick Fallar

Meadow called the meeting to order at 7:04, welcomed everyone. She explained the meeting was to discuss proposed budgets; when to hold the formal Informational Town Meeting; separating out service agency requests for money from the budget to be voted individually; and to hear from the Vermont Farmers Food Center regarding their request for town funding.

Voters expressed concern about the housing crisis, past affordable housing projects attempted in town, what can be done as there is no municipal water or sewer in this rural community. The PC Chair invited those interested to attend a planning commission meeting to discuss further.

Questions were asked about the increase in taxes due to the CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) determined by the State, dropping again. Gail explained the reappraisal will take care of the CLA, but the state education tax rate is expected to increase 18% unless the legislature can find other funding.

Gregg Cox, from the Vermont Farmers Food Center, spoke to the VFFC's request for Town Meeting funding, explaining the multiple programs they support. 'Everyone Eats' during Covid, now 'Rutland County Eats', food for people - not drugs, helping farmers, better food for food cupboards, expanding opportunities for young farmers, etc. What started as a small non-profit has grown tremendously. They are asking all towns in the county for support for their efforts.

Voters discussed the highway budget. After discussion, the Board voted to approve the proposed draft highway budget of \$634,800.

Voters discussed the general budget (SB has already approved) of \$221,850. SBA advised that the warning has separate articles for service agencies which had been included in the budget (\$46,610), as well as a separate article asking for an additional \$25,000 for paving, neither of which is included in the budgets. There was much discussion about separating the service agency requests – how to notify them of the change, voters wanted a chance to have input, how often it might happen that way (every 3-5 years?), concern about the time to count, etc.

Timing of the formal Informational Town Meeting was discussed. It has to be within 10 days of town meeting

(March 5<sup>th</sup>). After discussing options – the night before (Monday the 4<sup>th</sup>) - the Saturday before – the 2<sup>nd</sup>), or the Saturday before that (the 24<sup>th</sup>). It was decided to hold it on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There were several fire department members present who advised they were going to hold a free Game Supper for the community – so they decided to hold it following the Town's meeting – which was set to begin at 3:00 at the Community Center.

The Select Board reviewed the draft town meeting warning. Board voted to approve the warning for February 24<sup>th</sup> and March 5<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm. The Owl speaker system had trouble transmitting sound to those on Zoom – SBA will try to address this before the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The room was too large, people speaking were not close enough to the Owl to be heard online.

## Planning Commission ~ 1/18/2024

Regular Meeting &  
Valentine Farm LLC Subdivision Hearing

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

Members present via Zoom: Bob Lloyd, Rainbow Squier, and Pat Psholka

Others: present in-person: Cameron Lepley and Mike Brown for (Valentine Farm LLC); adjoiners Darren Babin and David Eaton; Greg Poelker-McKee – RRPC; and Gail Fallar Secretary;

And via Zoom: Applicants Travis Lepley and Scott Lepley, Adjoiners Nelson and Betti Jaquay, as well as Sherry Johnson

Hearing for Valentine Farm LLC Subdivision was opened. Introductions for all in person and on Zoom. Michael read the warning, reviewed procedure, asked for exparte' communications and interested parties. Rainbow recused herself as she is an adjoiner and an interested party. David, Darren, Nelson and Betti all advised they were interested parties also as adjoiners. Oath was administered to applicants as well as interested parties.

Travis presented a new map. There are seven lots, a few acres changed on a couple of them, map shows possible house sites, septic test sites, proposed driveways, zoning districts, fragile areas, etc. as requested.

The PC reviewed the checklist for major subdivisions, the map seemed to meet all that are required.

Darren inquired about the change in acreage in one of the lots near him – from 12.2 to 11.9 – Lot 7, and time frame for development? Cameron advised no time soon, and that the existing farm driveway would be used to both Lots 6 and 7. This area was reduced to two lots due to septic conditions. Nelson echoed Darren's concerns.

Members discussed briefly then and then voted to approve as presented. Hearing closed at 7:25.

Gregg, planner from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, asked for input regarding the Community Needs Assessment that RRPC is going to undertake for the town. Members inquired what would be involved, were there any templates to follow, time line? Gregg advised that the state is still working on definitions for the process, the town can pretty much decide what it wants to pursue, hoping to identify areas of concern by late spring. Members reviewed the Town Plan's vision from 1974, which has been in each Town Plan since then, suggesting that perhaps those objectives should be part of the survey to see if current residents still feel the same. (*Please see list below.*) Other possible subjects – salt/sand shed costing \$1M +/- – transfer station - community involvement - energy. Members felt that other town committees might want to provide input as well. Gregg will be attending the Recreation Committee meeting in February. Gregg advised he will compose a list of questions and send to the PC secretary for distribution.

Members discussed enhanced energy planning – Bob felt that Brandon's Draft EEP frames the issue differently as they are a town of 4,000 compared to Tinmouth's population of 559. Members discussed ways to involve community members who traditionally have not been involved in planning – do they want to be; how to define equity; whether the State's EEP standards are clear enough to make a difference at the Public Utility Commission in the event of an application for a major energy project.

Michael reminded members that the update for the town plan looks forward 5-8 years, but changes can happen in less time.

Back to the Needs Assessment questions, who decides the final questions? The Select Board? The Planning Commission for planning questions?

#### *Objectives from the current Tinmouth Town Plan*

*It is the purpose of this Plan to guide future growth and development within the Town of Tinmouth by providing a framework of planning policies and recommendations which will assure that decisions made at the local, regional, and state levels are consistent with the following specific objectives:*

1. Preserve the rural character of Tinmouth.
2. Maintain sustainable agriculture as an economic base that minimizes impact on soil, water and air quality.
3. Protect and preserve scenic and historic features, open spaces, fragile and wildlife habitats and other natural resources.
4. Maintain a population consisting of residents and families of all incomes, ages, and types.
5. Allot sufficient space in appropriate locations

for agricultural, residential, recreational, and commercial development in order to meet the needs of the town.

6. Prohibit incompatible and uncoordinated development activity.

7. Allow for future growth to occur in a way which will not place an undue burden on the town to provide community facilities and services.

8. Assure that basic needs of health, safety, education, and housing will be met and maintained at satisfying levels in accordance with population growth.

9. Foster local activities, programs, development patterns, and town governance that build the town's strong sense of community.

10. Require that public utilities be located in such a way that they will not have an undue adverse effect on the scenic quality and land values of the town.

11. Require that town highways permit safe and efficient movement of vehicles through the town.

#### **Conservation Commission ~ 1/15/24**

*~ With thanks to Chuck Bronk, Sec.*

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

Public Present: Gail Fallar, Dale Aines, Sheri Lulik, David Birdsall (Zoom), Cat Yoder (Zoom), Tami Carboni (Zoom), and Nancy Birdsall (Zoom).

#### ***New Business:***

Dale Aines posed two questions to the Commission. Who would manage the locking and unlocking of the gate that the Commission asked him to erect on his property at the junction of the Pent Road and the right of ways through his property and would he as landowner of a gated property be liable for use of the right of ways? Gail Fallar responded that State statute protects land owners from claims of liability. Doug advised that Jerry Buffum, a nearby landowner, was responsible for locking and unlocking the cable at the kiosk at the Commission's request and could provide the same service for the gates. Dale said that he intended to install two twelve-foot gates but that he would prefer that the Town provide the text and signage. Doug Fontein moved that the Conservation Commission erect a sign, text to be determined, to regulate wheeled traffic on the southern loop of the right of way through Dale's property. Ed Hasenohr seconded the motion. Discussion of the motion followed.

Cat Yoder commented that as an individual trail biker, she would always walk her bike on these trails in wet season. Colleen Balch commented that the number of bikes was important. Dale offered that he could improve

the trail. Colleen cited the language on signs at the Dorset Quarry. Doug said that you could recreate at your own risk vs. tear up the trail. Gail suggested that it would be better if the trail were improved. Colleen suggested that no organized events be allowed. David Birdsall said we should talk with Analog Cycles and tell them to get permission from the land owner. Dale said that if he was improving the Pent Road, he could also improve or relocate the trail. Rainbow Squier said that a new route could improve accessibility. Dale assured that while no logging would go on this year, he is willing to make improvements. Rainbow suggested that we meet on site in the Spring and explore options. David agreed that another route could be found. Doug commented that if we were to create a hierarchy of use, that foot traffic and skiers, followed by snowmobiles, followed by non-motorized wheeled vehicles, would be the sequence in terms of damage to the trail.

Doug volunteered to talk to Analog Cycles prior to the next meeting and suggest that they should get permission to transit on private land. Cat found Analog Cycles in Poultney on the internet. David looked up his email exchange and reported that he spoke to a James at Analog. Nancy Birdsall commented that the current sign says no wheeled vehicles, so when she was biking toward the Cabin, she turned around and came back down Pent Road.

Dale repeated that he was willing to work on improvements and possibly gates in the Spring

#### ***Ongoing Business:***

Regarding the toilet seat at the cabin, it seems its replacement is required due to damage from a hungry porcupine. Doug commented that a metal seat would not be user friendly in cold weather, but it might be possible to hang the seat from a nail, as is done in the outhouses of the Appalachian Trail. He also mentioned that the entire box for the bucket probably needs replacement since he constructed it of pressure treated lumber which seems to be a dietary treat for the porcupines. Rainbow asked if the cabin was getting much use through the reservation system, monitored by Cathy Reynolds. Doug advised that there was significant usage but the purchase and installation of a new seat could wait till Spring. Rainbow agreed to purchase a new seat for installation with Commission funds.

A discussion of invasives was tabled till a future meeting.

#### **Tinmouth Community Fund Board ~1/30/24**

*With thanks to Helen Mango, Sec.*

Members present were Todd Dennis (Chair), Cathy Reynolds (Treasurer), Jan Krantz, Melody Squier, Lisa Patry, Lynn Buffum, Martha Stanley, and Helen Mango (Secretary). Also present was Gail Fallar.

Treasurer's report. Cathy reported that in the last calendar year the TCF received \$5660 in donations, of

which \$4590 went to the Community Fund and \$1070 went to the Scholarship Fund. The TCF also received \$13,264 from the Plant Sale. Since the beginning of 2024, the TCF has received \$1675 in additional donations.

Current status of TCF funds:

Continuing Education fund: \$315,983

Endowed fund: \$145,829

The first two funds are endowed and no more than 5% can be withdrawn annually.

Reserve fund: \$45,584 – there is no limitation on withdrawals as long as they meet the purpose of the Community Fund; a “carve out” is set aside for occasional big projects (such as the acoustic work on the Community Center ceiling a few years ago) Total: \$507,396

Lynn asked about how the money is invested. Cathy explained that all funds are held at the Vermont Community Fund, which invests the funds. They charge us a fee (0.8% of the value of our assets yearly).

Scholarships require that recipients submit a tuition bill. For Community Fund grants, a question will be added to the application asking when the awarded money will be used (to avoid having checks sitting around for more than six months and become no longer cashable). Camp scholarship funds go directly to the camps.

Small Business Grants: We will institute a request for receipts and a final report for these (as is required for Community Grants). Cathy suggested that we assess the Small Business Grants program in another year and discuss its challenges and successes.

It was noted that for non-scholarship grants of more than \$600, a 1099 form is required which has tax implications for the recipient. Community and Small Business grants will be reduced to \$599 in 2024 to avoid this.

Cathy reported that she and Bob Lloyd have discussed the Susan McIntosh Lloyd scholarship and are altering the application to encourage a wider range of people to apply. The change of the Tinmouth town website from .org to .gov has made our pages disappear or work in odd ways. Todd has fixed as many of these problems as he has found to date.

Todd then brought up the schedule for this year. Cathy recommended that all grants be due by April 1 instead of May 1. (Currently only Camp Scholarships are due April 1 and the rest are due May 1.) Members decided that all grant and scholarship applications be due April 1 in 2024.

Other business: Cathy reported that due to overcrowding at the Tinmouth Mountain School, there is potential for the school to rent space from the church. There might be an opportunity for the Community Fund to help with making the space appropriate for this purpose.

#### **Recreation Committee ~ 1/8/24**

*Minutes were not available as Tales went to print.*



~ Community News ~

*Thank-you* to everyone who has helped re-stock the Food Shelf at the Town Office. It was all given away during the Holidays! Canned and dry goods as well as paper and cleaning products are always welcome.

*Heartfelt Sympathies* are sent to family and friends of **Jamie Stacy**; to family and friends of **Millie Phillips Carabeau**; to family and friends of **Shirley Moyer**; and to **Arne Majorell** and family for the loss of his father.

*Get Well Wishes* are sent to **Andy Moyer**.

*Appreciation* is sent anonymously to **Wheaton Squier** who has been quietly sanding slippery driveways when no one is looking!! It is very much appreciated!

~ Green Mountain Power provided the following ~

Here are safety reminders for before, during, and after storms:

- Pay attention to the weather forecast and changing conditions
- Keep your phone charged
- Have flashlights with fresh batteries, water and non-perishable food handy
- Stay far away from any downed lines
- Always assume downed lines and trees are energized – you cannot tell by looking at them
- Call GMP to report downed lines
- Call 911 for medical emergencies
- Call Vermont 211 for help with emergency housing and more

More [storm preparation and safety tips](#) are available on the GMP website.

~ Reminisces ~  
**‘Farmer John Squier’**

A fellow stopped at the town office a couple of weeks ago, he was lost, looking for a friend who lived in Tinnmouth. He was interested in the history of the town office. He was advised that it was once a general store, until it closed in 1948. The section that holds the Library was built circa 1790, the front section was added in 1860. The conversation turned to his memories when he lived in Rutland when he was a kid.

He said there used to be a farmer from Tinnmouth who sold sweet corn from the back of his truck on Main Street in Rutland. His family was large and lived nearby. Farmer John would swap sweet corn for paper bags – the family being large always had lots of bags, so they received lots of corn and didn’t go hungry. This was in the late 1960’s. Farmer John, also known as J.J. Squier, was also known for giving away Christmas trees to those in need. He passed in 1989. Some of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren still live in town.

**Middletown Springs Historical Society  
Announces Maple Raffle**



Photo Caption: One of the items in the Middletown Springs Historical Society’s Maple Raffle is a 5-hour rental for up to 30 people at the 1780’s Reuben Wait Barn at Green Mountain Timber Frames in Middletown Springs.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Green Mountain Timber Frames

*Middletown Springs, Vt.* - With 37 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, home and garden décor, specialty services, and even a unique Historic Barn venue for your group event. In addition, Middletown Springs residents offer their expertise in massage, natural history consulting, 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 13. For a list of raffle items, downloadable tickets, and instructions, visit the Society’s website at [www.mshsvt.org](http://www.mshsvt.org).

Separate raffle drawings for each of the 37 items will be held during the 2024 Maple Festival on Sunday, March 17, 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).

*The following was submitted by Nancy Gucker Birdsall*

# Stories Told in Tinmouth:

*The prompt for the evening is “Love Stories”*  
**Friday February 9 at 7:00 pm at the**  
**Tinmouth Old Firehouse**



**Please join us for an ongoing series of storytelling evenings at the Tinmouth Old Firehouse in beautiful downtown Tinmouth.**

**The prompt for February 9 is Love Stories so your story could be your story of love, or another.**

Stories about Tinmouth are always welcome.

**If you want to come just to listen, you will hear all sorts of tales and you'll definitely laugh out loud. The audience is kind and supportive with enthusiastic applause for all. Please join us for the fun and refreshments!**

This event is based on our desire to connect with each other through shared experiences in stories and to keep the tradition of storytelling alive. It is based on the STORY SLAM model. **Audience members put their name in a basket and storytellers are chosen randomly to tell their true story.**

**This is a free event sponsored by the Tinmouth Community Fund.  
All are welcome!**

***Weather permitting we will host an event on the second Friday of each month.***

**Please follow us on Facebook:  
Tinmouth Old Firehouse Concerts & Town Events  
Questions: 802-881-6775 (call or text)**

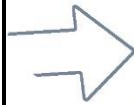


RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN **2026**

# COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

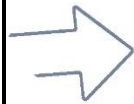
Every eight years, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission updates its visionary plan for the future of the region. The strategies outlined in this plan guide decisions on how communities will grow and develop.

## Shape Our Future Together



### WHAT IS THE RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN?

A guide to shape a healthy, equitable and resilient region. It outlines strategies for achieving our collective goals as they relate to **community economic development**.



### WHY SHOULD I ATTEND AN OPEN HOUSE?

Attend one or all of our events to help shape the future of our region. You have the answers to what is valued and what changes are needed to ensure our community remains a wonderful place to live, work, and play!

*Need special accommodation or assistance per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)? Email us at [plan2026@rutlandrpc.org](mailto:plan2026@rutlandrpc.org) at least 72 hours prior to the open house date.*

Visit [rutlandrpc.org/plan2026](http://rutlandrpc.org/plan2026) for more information about how you can help shape the future of the region.



## Brandon

**Saturday, February 10, 2024**

10:00 a.m. - 12 noon  
Brandon Inn @ 20 Park Street

## Castleton

**Saturday, March 2, 2024**

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Village School @ 47 Mechanic Street

## Middletown

**Saturday, March 16, 2024**

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Town Office @ 5 South Street

## Wallingford

**Saturday, March 30, 2024**

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Gilbert Hart Library @ 14 S Main Street

## Rutland City

**Wednesday, April 17, 2024**

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Paramount Theatre @ 30 Center Street





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**Tinmouth Road House and Best Moon Catering**

(formerly the Tinmouth Snack Bar)

Will be opening soon.

Please watch Front Porch Forum for details or call Corrie Best at **802-446-9473**.

Remember the **“Golden Rule!”**  
*“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”*



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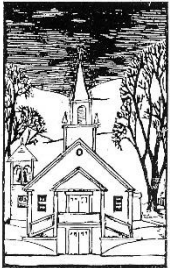
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TINMOUTH  
CHURCH

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Rev. John Hardman-Zimmerman,  
Pastor

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help others along the way."  
~ Sandra Day O'Conner*



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The Town gets \$1.50 for each  
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~ February 2024 Calendar of Events ~



<b>Fire Department</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Fire House</b>
<b>Select Board</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Town Office/Virtual</b>
<b>Recreation Committee</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Town Office/Virtual</b>
<b>Planning Commission</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Town Office/Virtual</b>
<b>Tales of Tinmouth Deadline</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Don't Miss It!</b>
<b>Informational Town Meeting</b>	<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>3:00</b>		<b>Community Ctr &amp; Virtual</b>
<b>Free Game Supper</b>	<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Following the Informational Meeting</b>		<b>Community Center</b>
<b>Sadie Hawkins Day</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Happy Leap Year!!</b>



~ March 2024 Calendar of Events ~

<b>Town Meeting Voting</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:00am – 7:00pm</b>	<b>Community Center</b>
<b>Fire Department</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Fire House</b>
<b>Select Board</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>Town Office &amp; Virtual</b>
<b>Planning Commission</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Town Office &amp; Virtual</b>
<b>Tales of Tinmouth Deadline</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Don't Miss It!</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 the first Saturday of the month, 10-noon.*

**Knit? Crochet? Craft? ~ Mondays at the Old Fire House ~ 1:00-3:00 All Welcome!**

~ **Town Meeting** ~  
 Informational Meeting  
 Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00  
 Voting  
 Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>  
 8 am – 7 pm  
 both at the Community Center.

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