

TALES OF TINMOUTH

March 2024
Vol. 38 Number 3

Tinmouth
Vermont

Editors' Notes: *Having missed printing before town meeting due to many factors, we've edited this edition with post town meeting news, and apologize for the delay.*

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. Thank you.

Gail Fallar & Pat Psholka

~ Town Meeting Results ~

215 voters cast ballots at town meeting-58 voted early.

There are 410 voters on the checklist, so about 52% voted – many towns in Vermont only had 20-30% turnout.

Officials elected:

Select Board - **Melody Squier** received 133 votes

Michael Fallar received 77

Uncontested races ~

Moderator - **Holly Ross**;

Road Commissioner - **Eric Buffum** (14 write-in votes)

Community Center Board Member - **Martha Stanley**

Lister - **Patricia Psholka**

Auditor - **Gene Usher**

Delinquent Tax Collector - **Cat Yoder**

Both the General and Highway budgets passed.

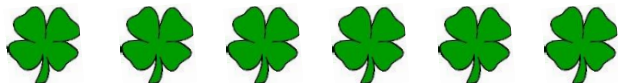
All the separate articles passed, a few by large margins 197-9, and others not - 108-95. Most totals were in between those extremes. If you would like to see all the tallies, please call or email the Town Office and the list will be provided.

Thank you to everyone who voted. 84 Democrats and 127 Republicans cast ballots in the Presidential Primary. Trump had 83 votes to Haley's 33. (Haley won the state by the way.) Biden won with 77 votes.

Some voters chose not to vote in the Primary, only voted the town meeting ballots.

Thank you to the poll workers and counters as well. Paula Bonazinga, Shirley and Ed Bucceri, Kevin Eaton, Michael Fallar, Judy Gilmore, Nancy Gucker Birdsall, Sherry Johnson, Ken Krantz, Anna Majorell, Pat Psholka, Marshall (Mo) Squier, Melody Squier, Hollis Squier, and Martha Stanley.

The MRUUSD budget was also approved, 985 to 825. All four town's votes were co-mingled.



~ 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.

~ Dog & Cat Rabies Clinic ~

The Wallingford Dog & Cat Rabies Clinic is
Saturday, March 23rd from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

All dogs must be on leashes.

All cats must be in carriers.

Grace Ma-Steenbergen, DVM

Wallingford Town Hall 75 School Street

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Cost is \$15 per animal.

~ Vacancies – Positions Open ~

Rainbow Squier advised that she is stepping down from the Planning Commission and **Jeff Ams** has announced that he is stepping down from the Conservation Commission.

If you are interested in serving on either of these, or any of the other annual appointments (see pages 3 & 4 of the town report) or need more information about the duties of the various committees, please call the Town Office at 802-446-2498 by March 14th. The Select Board will be making annual appointments that night.

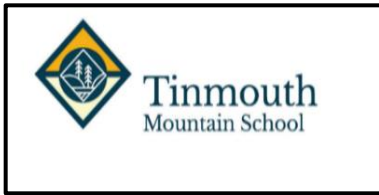
Please consider serving your community.

~ Homestead Declaration ~

This is a reminder that you need to file an **annual** Homestead Declaration with the Vermont Department of Taxes, form HS-122. You must file this to qualify for the homestead education tax rate and to request a property tax adjustment if you are eligible.

You must also file form HI-144 (household income), **due April 15th**. This is required even if you do not have to file or pay state income taxes.

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



March 1, 2024

To the Tinmouth Community,

February is always the darkest and coldest month in Vermont. In spite of the gloominess, there were several events that countered the lethargy. Winter skiing, boarding, and skating certainly took the harshness off the gloominess. However, what truly subdued February's tedium and dreariness was a gift from a dear, old, friend of Tinmouth Mountain School, **Nelson Jaquay**.

Nelson arranged to have Jon Gilmour come to Tinmouth School on Friday, February 16th to sing for the students. Mr. Gilmour does so much more than sing. The students continually laughed, sang, and interacted with Mr. Gilmour who humorously prompted and cajoled the audience.

Nelson celebrated his birthday by giving this concert to the students of Tinmouth. In turn, the students presented him with a jar of 80 affirmations for his 80th birthday. There were cupcakes and of course, Mr. Gilmour accompanied the students on guitar as they sang *Happy Birthday* to Nelson. We are very appreciative to Nelson not only for bringing us Jon Gilmour, but for all he does for the students, including coordinating 4 Winds and our weekly roundup.

Students winter break was from February 19th through to the 23rd. School started up again on February 26th and we eased into our return with a Winter Sports day of skiing, boarding, or skating.

Fourth Graders took the Federal NAEP test on March 29th. This is a brief online assessment. The results are compiled nationally and provide US statistical data similar to the Federal census data.

Testing season starts on March 20th. Students in 3rd through 6th grade take the state Cognia test. This test replaced the SBAC and was initiated last year as a trial. Students are tested on English Language Arts, Science, Mathematics, and Physical Education. The testing window extends through to May 26th when the STAR 360 testing begins. Although this sounds like a lot of testing, the students on average are spending 2 hours a week testing on their Ipad. It has become a routine event in schools and teachers have skillfully minimized the disruption to the school day. These tests are mandated in order to receive Federal Education funding.

School is closed on March 15th for conferences across the district. This day is designed to accommodate parents who are available during the workday for conferences.

Evening conferences the week before are generally the norm for most families.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support!

Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker
Principal
Tinmouth Mountain School

~ **Letter to the Editor:** ~

To All Who Love The Natural Beauty Of Our Town,

I am writing concerning a bill, S.236, introduced and sent to the committee on Finance on Jan. 9 of this year. This bill eliminates aesthetics from the list of reasons for challenging a renewable energy project, particularly wind and solar. Adjoining landowner's concerns could not be raised during the permitting process.

This would strip a fundamental right of local neighbors for a say in potential projects in their town. Aesthetics is a major important asset in our town of Tinmouth and we need to preserve the right for a seat at the table for protecting it.

Please write your representatives and ask them to say NO to S.236. It is our right and our duty to have a say in protecting our natural resources and keeping our wildlife corridors intact.

Thank you,
Kathy Hepburn Halford

~ **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!

~ **Tinmouth Community Fund** ~

By Cathy Reynolds

**Grant and Scholarship Applications
are due April 1, 2024 by 11:59 PM**

Info at: <https://tinmouthvt.gov/community-fund/>

Hello - as a resident of Tinmouth, you are eligible to apply for several grants or scholarships to enhance your personal learning, your business, help pay for summer camp for your kids, learn more about agriculture, forestry or music, or to provide scholarship funds to help with continuing education after high school! This is a great opportunity and the applications are easy to complete.

<https://tinmouthvt.gov/community-fund/> is the link to the Community Fund page on the <http://Tinmouthvt.gov> website. Info on each scholarship or grant opportunity is available by clicking the appropriate link on the right side of the page. Our applications are straightforward and anyone on the Community Fund Board is happy to help you complete the form if you need help. There is a list of Board Members at the link above by scrolling down to get to the Board member list.

Applications are due April 1 by 11:59 PM. If you do not have access to a computer, please reach out for help and we can assist with the application process. Our email for questions or help is

tinmouthcommunityfund@gmail.com

New this year is the enhancement of the Susan McIntosh Lloyd Scholarship which supports scholarships in the areas of music, forestry and agriculture. Sue was a longtime resident of Tinmouth and these were her passions. Her family created this scholarship to honor her memory. This year this scholarship is available for citizens to pursue a passion in one of Sue's areas of interest by applying for a scholarship to take lessons or a training course. Consider the Master Gardener Course, or the Game of Logging, a beekeeping training, music or voice lessons or any other great opportunity you wish to pursue in one of these areas. This scholarship is available to Tinmouth residents of all ages and the application is here: <https://tinmouthvt.gov/susan-mcintosh-lloyd-memorial-scholarship/> College bound students studying in one of these areas of interest may also apply.

Some history:

The Tinmouth Community Fund (TCF) was organized in December 1999 with the Vermont Community Foundation. The fund was created with funds remaining at the completion of the Tinmouth Community Center. The Community Center received such strong community support, volunteer labor and a creative, collaborative,

local construction model, that \$85,000 was left in the bank when the building was complete. This was the seed money for the TCF which now has assets of ~\$500,000. We award at least 5% of our assets annually.

The purpose of the Tinmouth Community Fund is to provide funding of needed service and facilities for the well-being of the citizens of and for the sense of community in the Town of Tinmouth.

~ **Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department News** ~

By Sherry Johnson

Need to Charge your Electronic Device? Or Need access to the Internet?

During our recent power outages, people went to the Town Office to access the Wi-Fi and charge their cell phones. Last Fall, generators were installed at the Town Office and the Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department. So when the power is out, there is power at these two locations. The generator powers the Wi-Fi access so it will be available when the power is out.

At the February 8th meeting of the Select Board, the Select Board agreed that the Fire Department could put a cell phone charging station in the Old Fire House. This station is for people to use when they need to charge their phones. The station has 4 USB outlets and 4 three pronged outlets. Since there are a variety of chargers for cell phones, it is impossible to provide the necessary cables.

The guidelines for using the charger stations are as follows:

1. If the Old Fire House is in use for an event, the station will not be able to be used.

The OFH is usually open, but in August it will be closed for storage for the Town Wide Tag Sales. There may be other occasions when it might be locked.

2. It is hoped that the station will be left where and in the same condition as when a user showed up.

3. The station is for charging electronic devices. The charging station is a white tower, located on a small wooden table. The table is located in the back of the OFH (away from the stage). There is a green sign.

We are excited to provide this service the Tinmouth Community.

~ **Front Porch Forum** ~

Connect with your Tinmouth Neighbors

Have you checked out Front Porch Forum yet? To sign up, go to <http://FrontPorchForum.com>. Or stop by the town office to sign up!! 200+ households have signed to date! Good way to discuss community issues, sell a canoe, give away a kitten, etc. If you are a second home owner you can use your 911 address.

Theresa Dana sends the following:

Q. How Do You Plan A Solar Eclipse Party?
A. You Planet!

**** WEATHER PERMITTING ****

The Tinmouth Parents Club is inviting ALL Tinmouth students, parents, faculty and community members to the **Church Parking Lot on April 8th, 2024** to witness the Solar Eclipse. This is a once in a life time experience!

The Eclipse starts at 2:14 pm, total darkness occurs from 3:26-3:29 pm, and ends shortly thereafter.

We will have Solar-Safe glasses to borrow-please share, as there is a limited amount!

Light snacks will be provided!



Please visit the Town's website – tinmouthvt.gov – to see these photos in color, in the March issue of *Tales* that is posted there.



TINMOUTH
CHURCH

~ **Tinmouth Community Church** ~

I heard it from my mom more than once growing up. "The older you get, the faster time goes." She was getting older; now I am; we all are. And yes, she was right. I begin this way to tell you that time is moving us along. My wife Sue has been reassigned by her Bishop to a church in southern PA, Trinity UMC in Walnut Bottom. We will be moving in June, but I will be retiring this month. My last Sunday in the pulpit will be March 10th.

How fast 5 years in Vermont have gone by. I already knew from my mom and my own advancing years, that time would go faster than it seemed it should. And it has. But it has been time chock-full of blessing, reminding me of that culture-bound image of Aaron, prophet and priest, in Psalm 133, which says, "How good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live together in the bond of love. It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes." (Don't get any ideas!).

Blessing upon blessing - that has been Sue and my experience of you. And we couldn't be more grateful. Thank you for your friendship, your music, and for the opportunity to pastor Tinmouth Community Church. I'm hoping I have helped you grow in the love that is the essence of God, the basis of our faith, and the means of peace and fulfillment in our lives. You have certainly done so for me.

I will be leaving a better version of myself, with a heart full of gratitude, with many wonderful memories, and with enduring friendships. Continued blessings to you all. Thank you, thank you, forever thank you.

Blessings,

Pastor John

Rev. John Hardman-Zimmerman

(802) 282-7532 (cell, preferred)

(802) 884-8249 (parsonage)

hzfam@hotmail.com

There will be a special **Easter Service on Sunday, March 31st, 9:00 AM.** Special music, and the Tinmouth Bell Ringers will be playing. All are welcome!



~ Community News ~



Welcome to Tinnmouth's newest arrival, **Sarepta Brielle Ringger**, daughter of **Hogan and Abigail**, granddaughter of **Chad and Jennifer Virkler**.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to all!

Get Well Wishes are sent to **Frank Sears, Betti Jaquay, Jamie Edmunds, Jason Burden**, and

Hollis Squier would like to invite you to join in the fun playing **volleyball** on Wednesday evenings – 7:00 at the Community Center. All are welcome, the intent is to have fun!! Hollis can be reached at 802-779-4343 for more information.

Don't forget to set you clocks ahead on the 10th – spring forward one hour!!

Vermont community spirit is an elusive notion that is somewhat like Calvin Coolidge's remark: "I know it when I see it."

The sense of belonging to Vermont is the wellspring from which flows community spirit – or the willingness to give of one's self to others.

~ Author Unknown

~ Nature Notes ~

Warmest February on record! 60+ degrees on the 28th!! And then wild weather hit on the 29th – Leap Day. . . wind gusts of 50 mph, and temperatures dropping into the 20's.

Lots of birds have returned - robins, red-winged black birds (a HUGE flock were singing near the center of town a week ago), phoebes – singing "Spring's Here", blue birds (on February 4th) checking out housing, to name a few. Snow drops blossomed on February 8th, had to hunker down for a day or two and then warm weather returned.

There will be a solar eclipse on Monday, April 8th – a once in life time opportunity. Don't miss it!!

The old timers used to say, "If March comes in like a lamb, it will go out like a lion!" And vice a versa. It certainly came in like a lamb this year . . . so we shall see if the old timers were right come the end of the month.

Nancy Gucker Birdsall sends the following:

Stories Told in Tinnmouth:
The prompt for the evening is "Mud Season"
Friday March 8 at 7:00 pm
at the
Tinnmouth Old Fire House



Please join us for an ongoing series of storytelling evenings at the Tinnmouth Old Fire House in beautiful downtown Tinnmouth.

The prompt for March 8 is Mud Season, so your story could be a story of mud, sugaring, early spring or another.

Stories about Tinnmouth are always welcome.

Come to share your true 5-minute story with a live audience of kind and supportive listeners, or come to listen and enjoy!

~ **Please join us for the fun and refreshments** ~

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 Tinnmouth Community Fund.

All are welcome!

Questions: 802-881-6775 (call or text)

Please follow us on Facebook:
Tinnmouth Old Firehouse Concerts & Town Events

(Next Story Telling is Friday, April 12th !!)

~ 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) ~ 2/8/2024

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

Others present:

In-person: Michael Fallar, Eric Buffum-Road Commissioner, Barry Cohen-Rutland Free Library Board of Trustees President, Barbara Noyes-Pulling-Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) Planner, and Gail Fallar-Select Board Assistant (SBA)

Via Zoom and phone: Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Marshall Squier, Melody Squier, Rick Fallar, David Birdsall, and Nancy Gucker Birdsall

Judy called the meeting to order at 7:00, welcomed everyone.

Letter of Support ~ Barry, as President of the **Rutland Free Library (RFL)** Board of Trustees (and a Tinmouth resident), requested a letter of support from the Select Board for a grant the RFL was applying for from the state for renovations to the building – it has lots of needs. The grant request is for \$1.5 million for capital improvements. The Board of Trustees hope to raise \$7M for all the needed renovations. Revenues sent by Tinmouth, Ira, Mendon, Rutland Town and Rutland City support library programs, are not part building repairs. The Board voted to approve sending a letter of support.

Rutland Regional Plan Update ~ Barbara advised the RRPC was beginning to gather input regarding the update of the regional plan – efforts will include gathering information on a wide variety of topics. They are going to have a survey available online or on paper, visiting all towns, holding community meetings, etc. Once data is gathered it will be compiled and a new plan presented. RRPC understands that Rutland County has a wide range of towns, small to Rutland City, all concerns need to be addressed.

Barbara was asked about the RRPC's position on the Legislature taking away a town's right to plan for zoning, setting lot sizes, not allowing voters to approve zoning regulations, etc. She advised that she will relay the questions to the RRPC's Executive Director, but folks could express concerns on the survey.

Highway ~

Eric reported the road crew is working on the insurance company's safety list (most are done), have been working on grader repairs and repairs to the old town garage. A fire alarm system was discussed (one of the suggestions on the safety list. Eric was asked to get quotes, possible insurance company grant program may help cover some of the cost. Gail advised the tree cutting safety grant paperwork was delayed yet again.

Board discussed VTRANS grant programs, after brief discussion - which section of Route 140 needed attention first (Crampton's Woods came to mind), Board voted to apply for a paving grant.

Update on **Buzz Blade for tractor** – Eric reported it will not arrive until late spring.

Financial ~

Board reviewed FY24 reports and Bills and Orders, Voted to approve all.

Potter's Brook Culvert Grant - SBA reported \$36,000 grant reimbursement has been received.

Federal Surplus Property Program ~ Board agreed by consensus to ratify action by Eric and Gail to apply for eligibility to participate in this program that makes equipment available to towns at low cost.

To-Do List ~ Board reviewed and updated the To-Do list, will look at the highway section at its March meeting. Kevin and Judy volunteered to help with work on some of the items.

Clarendon Select Board Request ~ The Board reviewed a letter from the Clarendon Select Board requesting approval to survey voters on town meeting day regarding possible school consolidation in the Mill River Unified Union School District. After brief discussion, Board voted to allow it.

Community Needs Assessment Update ~ Gregg Poelker-McKee, RRPC planner, has met with the Planning Commission and will meet with the Recreation Committee next week to discuss possible topics of questions.

Cell Phone Charging ~ The Fire Department requested permission to establish a charging station for cell phones in the Old Fire House. During the last power outage, there were several folks who drove to the town office to use the free WiFi, so it was thought it might be helpful to provide a way for someone to re-charge cells phones in an emergency. Sherry Johnson has the equipment and will set it up. After brief discussion, Board voted to approve the request.

Town Meeting ~ 2/24/24 ~ Informational Meeting

Select Board Members present were Judy Gilmore and Kevin Eaton, as well as Town Clerk Gail Fallar, Moderator Holly Ross and about 30 voters, some in-person and five via Zoom.

Holly called the meeting to order at 3:06, (had a brief technical obstacle) and welcomed everyone.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Miles Fallar. A Moment of Silence was held for those who had passed since last town meeting, Art Usher, Sandy Laskey, Robert Noble Jr., Wayne Bruce, Norman Gagne, Jamie Stacy.

Announcements were made regarding: the 5/6 grade bake sale at on the 5th, the new temporary ice skating rink, Green-Up, a rabies clinic in Wallingford, fire department reminders to change batteries in smoke and CO2

detectors; and to call 911 in any emergency, Tinmouth Community Fund grant and scholarship opportunities and application deadlines, Rutland Free Library services, and Story Telling at the Old Fire House.

State Representative Robin Chesnut-Tangerman spoke briefly about difficult issues in Montpelier – affordable housing and a huge education funding tax increase.

Holly read the warning, there was little comment about most articles. It was explained that the Select Board had decided to separate all the annual requests from service agencies (like the Visiting Nurses and the Fire Dept.) to allow voters a chance to have input. Concern was raised about the change, and support was expressed for the SB doing it. A question was raised about supporting harvesting milfoil in Tinmouth Pond when there is no public access, which was answered that controlling the milfoil kept property values at the lake high and that provided much needed tax revenue for the town – and that there were any owners who allow folks access to the lake.

School Board Member Josh Squier explained recent changes in education law, a new way to count students, cost per student, deferred maintenance of district school property, the budget process, federal grant deadlines, etc.

Holly thanked the Select Board for their service (Meadow, Judy and Kevin), a round of applause for all. Helen Mango thanked Josh Squier for serving on the school board, another round of applause.

Holly then recessed the meeting (at 4:19 pm) until 8:00 AM on Tuesday, March 5th for voting by Australian ballot.

Planning Commission ~ 2/15/2024

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

Members present via Zoom: Bob Lloyd, Kim Harbaugh, and Pat Psholka.

Others: present in-person: Jeremy Gildrien – RRPC; and Gail Fallar Secretary;

And others via Zoom: Sherry Johnson and via phone Lance and Jenny Somers.

Lance and Jenny presented a simple plot plan to subdivide their 86 acre parcel on Mountain View Road into 2 lots, running east and west. Members inquired about proposed driveways – they already have a driveway permit for the southern lot – which they intend to keep, and there is room on the north lot to also access Mtn. View Road. It was noted that about half of the property that lies to the east is in the Protection Zone – where agriculture and forestry are the only allowed uses – due to it being a wetland and close to the Tinmouth Channel. After brief discussion, members voted to allow them to go forward and prepare a formal application for consideration.

The record button was not clicked until this point in the meeting – oops!

Jeremy was present to continue the discussion about an enhanced energy plan, and whether the new Town Plan to be updated for 2025 needed to have its energy section meet the EEP standards. He noted he had briefly reviewed the existing town plan’s energy section – goals, policies and actions could be kept – will need new maps and data points, the state’s standards have changed some, but not too much, only need to address wind and solar (not biomass and hydro) – and energy equity.

There was much discussion: about the need to make it enhanced, what that would provide; about data points – the data is to be used as an estimate – the PC can include a statement in the Plan about the data being used were assumptions to show trends (the Public Utility Commission (PUC) will not look at the numbers; how the town deals with energy; how the town can meet town “obligations” for energy conservation – by example; the maps Bob prepared for the 2020 update – RRPC will update those – which shows where there are constraints for industrial energy projects (like conserved land); whether a ‘preferred sites’ map would be better; methodology used for data points – numbers; etc.

Discussion then turned on whether to apply for MERP mini-grant (up to \$4,000) to hire RRPC to assist the town in its energy planning – pros and cons – RRPC will do all the data collection, mapping, and provide technical assistance – the TPC will review that and reach out to the community for input. There was discussion about the contract with RRPC – would the town have to adopt it as their EEP or can it decide from the data that it does not want to go the whole route of an enhanced energy plan? Depends on how the contract is written and what is required by the grant. Is the EEP a free-standing document – no – it would still be part of the Town Plan. The Town Plan has to have an energy section. This grant would only be for the energy section. The Select Board now has a policy that all committees and commissions have to request SB approval before applying for grants. Members voted to apply for the MERP mini-grant.

Members discussed energy equity, how it needs to be addressed, Jeremy will send the PC information regarding definitions. For their next meeting the PC will review the standards and existing goals and policies to see what to keep, and consider what the town wants to meet them.

Kim inquired about wind development – where to put it in Rutland County – noted that the last Regional Plan did not support ridgeline wind. It needs to be clear that industrial wind is not to be allowed. Members were encouraged to participate in the RRPC’s survey regarding what county residents want for the future with updating the regional plan.

The upcoming Needs Assessment questions were briefly discussed – could not read the version that was provided – how should affordable housing be addressed – affordable to who was the first inquiry; it should not just

be low income – lot size – it was noted that many people move to Tinnmouth as they like to have space between neighbors – it was also noted the bringing more jobs to the area will create a market for more houses. Aesthetics were discussed – what can the Town do to encourage landowners to work on hedgerows, tree lines and stone walls to make the town more pleasant to drive through?

Rainbow Squier sent an email advising that she was stepping down – does not want to be re-appointed to another term. She was thanked for her time serving on the Planning Commission. Andy and Pat both indicated that they would like to be re-appointed. PC members have staggered 3 year terms.

Recreation Committee ~ 2/12/24

Minutes not available as Tales goes to print.

Recreation Committee ~ 1/8/24

With thanks to David Levant, Sec.

Present were members Doug Fontein, Robbie Leeds, Martha Stanley & David Levant in person and Colleen Balch by Zoom. Gail Fallar, Select Board Assistant (the “SBA”) was also present in person.

Old Business

Survey of Other Towns’ Recreation Committees and Activities: The Committee received reports from its members regarding their surveys of recreation committees and recreational opportunities in Poultney, Wallingford, Shrewsbury and Clarendon and discussed how the information they gathered might be used by the Committee and shared with the Town.

Survey of Tinnmouth Residents Regarding the Town’s Recreation Opportunities: The SBA advised the Committee that Devin Neary RRPC, will let the Committee to piggyback onto its multimedia survey of town needs.

Mission Statement: The Committee discussed the draft mission statement proposed by Robbie Leeds and approved it with minor revisions. The mission statement, as revised, is: *“Our mission is to provide recreational opportunities to enhance the quality of life and build community in Tinnmouth.”*

New Business

Skating Rink: Doug Fontein described the skating rink that he built near the Tinnmouth School with the help of other volunteers and donated materials. The Committee discussed the possible uses of the rink and how it might be relocated and expanded in the future, as well as a proposed broomball event on January 28, weather permitting. Members discussed how they would contribute to the broomball event and its publicity.

Rutland’s “Come Alive Outside” Program: Doug Fontein asked that members of the Committee look at this program in Rutland and plan to discuss it at the Committee’s next meeting.

Website Committee ~ 2/19/24

With thanks to Trish Warfle, Sec.

Present were members Zach Bronzo, Gail Fallar, Judy Gilmore, Jennifer Trepal and Trish Warfle.

First order of business, talking about website plug-ins; recurring calendar activities like pickleball and volleyball. The current program (license expired) will not allow posting recurring events so each event has to be put in each week/day. All members agreed it was cumbersome to add in each reoccurring event individually. A program for \$99 a year would allow recurring events to be put in. Word press calendar was discussed which is a free program, the events already on calendar will not migrate over. Members voted to purchase the program,

Next order of business - website being hard to find and access since it went from .org to .gov. Concerns brought to Gail’s attention included not having the website come up when typed into search engine, calendar not changing months, calendar is small and tinnmouthtown.org is not always switching over to the new tinnmouthtown.gov. Zach advised SCO (Search Engine Authorized) will move sites by popularity. Zach advised any calendar problems should be directed to Todd as he has the most experience using it. Judy would like to see the Town Office Hours and Transfer Station hours listed on the calendar as well as all meetings. Jennifer volunteered to update and keep the calendar updated with all hours, meetings and any changes as they occur.

Jennifer and Gail volunteered to make a list to clean up old data no longer needed. After 3 years data can be cleaned up, and meeting minutes only need to be kept for a year per state statute.

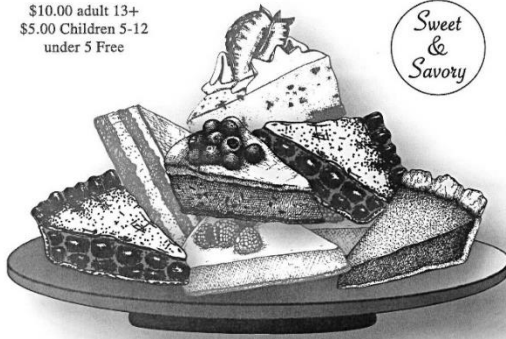
The Conservation Commission Photo Contest winners will be added to the website. Rainbow, Chair of the CC, provided Jennifer with the pictures. All photos will be arranged by the year they were submitted with the photographer’s names on each photo. Jennifer volunteered to upload them onto the Town’s website.

Tinnmouth Historical & Genealogical Society, via Gail (Secretary) inquired about uploading historical information. Can *The Channel*, THGS’s quarterly newsletter, be added to the website? There are 15 years worth of issues to be uploaded. THGS also has pictures, genealogy, interviews with old folks, etc. Members agreed to permit the uploading. Zach will check on storage space on the website.

Mill River Unified Union School District ~ 2/22/24

MRUUSD held its **Annual Meeting on Thursday, February 22nd**. There was less than a dozen interested voters who attended. The biggest news was that the MRUUSD budget will not cause taxes to increase the 18% being discussed in the Legislature. Other districts may see that, but not this one.

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



Benefit for the Middletown Springs Public Library

PIE FOR BREAKFAST

The Middletown Springs Public Library is hosting its 15th annual *Pie for Breakfast*. **On Saturday, April 6, 2024, from 8am-11am**, library volunteers and trustees will be serving up all-you-can-eat PIE for breakfast with tea, coffee, or juice. The slices are cut thin so it is easy to try many different varieties. Pies are both sweet (such as pumpkin, apple, berry, chocolate) and savory (such as quiche, pot pies, pizza).

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

For more information contact the library at 802-235-2435.

Middletown Springs Maple Festival Offers Sweet Fun

Middletown Springs, Vt.-- Maple lore and demonstrations, hearty lunch items, sugar-on-snow, maple "spun gold", sweet treats from local kitchens, and a Maple Raffle featuring 37 items each valued at \$100 or more are the highlights of the **2024 Annual Maple Festival of the Middletown Springs Historical Society on Sunday, March 17 from 1-4 pm**.

The event will feature an outdoor demonstration of early maple sugarmaking in a cast iron kettle over an open fire. Indoors, local sugarmaker Ryan Mahar and historians David Wright and Jon Mathewson will give a presentation at 2:00 pm on maple sugaring history and current practice illustrated by artifacts from the Historical Society collection.

In the dining room, homemade soup from Sissy's Kitchen, chili, mac n'cheese and delicious maple desserts created by Historical Society cooks, as well as Vermont maple products and new 2024 syrup will be available for sale. Old-fashioned sugar-on-snow, blueberry pancakes with maple syrup, and maple "spun gold" cotton candy are always favorites. Acoustic music enlivens the free afternoon event. Videos about Vermont maple sugaring will be shown continuously.

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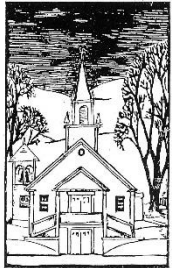
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**2024 Hunting and Fishing
Licenses are available at the
Town Office.
The Town gets \$1.50 for each
license sold.**

*"Do what you can, with what
you have, where you are."
~ Teddy Roosevelt*

*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*



~ March 2024 Calendar of Events ~

Town Meeting Voting	Tuesday	5 th	8:00am – 7:00pm	Community Center
Fire Department	Thursday	7 th	7:00	Fire House
Recreation Committee	Monday	11 th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
Select Board	Thursday	14 th	6:00	Town Office & Virtual
Conservation Commission	Monday	18 th	7:00	Town Office & Virtual
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Wednesday	20 th		Don't Miss It!
Planning Commission	Thursday	21 st	7:00	Town Office & Virtual
Rabies Clinic	Saturday	23 rd	12-2:00	Wallingford Town Hall
Easter Service	Sunday	31 st	9:00	Church



~ April 2024 Calendar of Events ~

Dog Licenses Due	Monday	1 st	5:00	Town Office
Fire Department	Thursday	4 th	7:00	Fire House
Solar Eclipse Event	Monday	8 th	2:15 – 3:30	Church Parking Lot
Recreation Committee	Monday	8 th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
Select Board	Thursday	12 th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
Planning Commission	Thursday	19 th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Friday	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 the first Saturday of the month, 10-noon.*

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



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