

**Minutes of the Tinmouth Community Fund**  
**Special meeting**  
**Old Firehouse**  
**September 2, 2024**

Present: TCF members Jan Krantz, Cathy Reynolds (Treasurer), Melody Squier, Lisa Patry, Lynn Buffum, Bess Lewis, Martha Stanley, Helen Mango (Secretary). Also present: Michael Fallar, Rick Fallar, Cris Carabeau, Larry Carabeau, Theresa Dana and daughter and Sherry Johnson and Kim Harbaugh (on Zoom). Doug Fontein and Robbie Leeds joined at 6:25 p.m. Lisa and Melody had to leave at 6:30. Rick and Michael Fallar left during the meeting. Sherry and Kim left the meeting at 6:30 and returned at 6:45. Melody re-joined the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Quorum was maintained throughout the meeting.

Jan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Introductions were made.

Jan turned the meeting over to Melody who described the goal of increasing inclusive ways that people in Tinmouth can get together, including building a town pavilion. She very recently heard of a grant from the State of Vermont Building Communities Grants programs called a Recreational Facilities Grant; it is due Sept. 10. In finding out more information about pavilions she discovered that the town of Marshfield has a pavilion (24' x 32') that they can no longer use due to flooding of their site. Timber Homes Vermont is the company that made and is currently holding this pavilion; they have constructed pavilions in other towns through this grant. The grant is for up to \$25,000.

Melody explained that such a pavilion could also be used by the school for outdoor education, and for town events like Fun Day and concerts, for people who can't or don't want to be in the sun, and for the changeable weather that we get in Tinmouth.

She has already gotten pledges of donations from some individuals, and the closest neighboring landowner is fine with the proposal. She has spoken to all neighbors who surround the green.

Rick Fallar asked about aspects of the project such as accessibility, bathrooms and security. Cathy said that this discussion would fit better into the Select Board meeting that is occurring after the TCF meeting. This TCF meeting is about funding options by the TCF.

Cathy explained the mission of TCF: The purpose of the TCF is to provide funding of needed services and facilities for the well-being of the citizens of and for the sense of community in the Town of Tinmouth.

She then broke down the economics of the plan: \$65,833 is the cost of the pavilion. This estimate includes providing 20 volunteers to raise the frame and the responsibility for sheathing and roofing the structure with volunteers. All costs are included in the estimate. If Tinmouth applies the \$25,000 grant, the grant rules stipulate that the remainder of the cost (\$40,833) needs to be already covered in order to apply.

The TCF has several ways of providing this "pre-application" coverage and helping to fund the project should the grant be awarded:

First, the TCF could pledge to provide a bridge loan for the funds needed above \$25,000. The TCF has three funds at the VCF: The Continuing Education Fund currently has \$338,767. The Community

Fund has \$160,092. The Reserve Fund has \$47,703. The purpose of the Reserve Fund is to fund larger projects in town; to date it has been used once in this capacity (for acoustic tile installation in the Community Center). Also, use of the Reserve Fund is not limited to 5% per year payout as are the other two funds. TCF can spend this money if it meets our mission. So, TCF funds can pledge the Reserve Fund as a “bridge loan” to allow the Town to apply for the grant.

Second, TCF could also be a donor to help meet the cost of the project by voting to withdraw funds from the Reserve Fund balance.

Third, TCF could use money from the Plant Sale to help meet the cost of the project; 2024 sale revenue is currently held in the Community Fund checking account which has a balance of \$16,950. The Plant Sale is just a group of dedicated volunteers who raise about \$15,000/year that is donated to the Community Fund. Plant Sale volunteers were polled via email and expressed strong support in allocating some of the Plant Sale money to support the Pavilion. Volunteers have agreed to also pledge 2025 sale revenue to help fund the project should other funding come up short.

Bess asked if using Plant Sale money would take that money away from what it usually goes towards funding. Cathy said that all scholarships and other TCF funding goals are already covered.

Jan stated that she thought a pavilion is a direct continuation of the very mission of the TCF (which began as funds leftover from the construction of the Community Center).

Jan clarified that the TCF board is looking to provide a pledged amount to be able to apply for the grant. Bess asked about how to word this so that we are not obliged to spend the pledge. Cathy said that should the town not receive the grant, the TCF pledge could disappear if the fundraising does not cover the full amount. Cathy also said that five potential donors have already committed to help fund the project, dependent on receipt of the grant.

Cathy moved that TCF pledge up to the full amount (in excess of the grant) required by the Recreational Facilities Grant as a short-term bridge loan to allow the Town of Tinmouth to apply for the grant. This will provide bridge funding and is contingent on the town receiving grant money. Seconded by Jan. Motion passed.

Cathy moved that TCF pledge to donate \$10,000 from the Tinmouth Community Reserve Fund to the pavilion project. Seconded by Jan. Motion passed.

Cathy moved to pledge to donate \$10,000 from the Tinmouth Community Fund checking account held in the town of Tinmouth (Plant Sale revenue) to support the pavilion project. Seconded by Jan. Motion passed.

#### Other business:

Cathy reminded the board that because of a technological glitch in the application process, the Tinmouth Elves 2024 grant proposal (\$599) did not get funded (it had been submitted but was never received) and should have been approved at the spring meeting. She moved that we formally approve the request. Seconded by Martha. Motion carried.

Cathy moved that the K-12 Camp Scholarships be made part of the Tinmouth Continuing Education Fund since they share a similar mission. Seconded by Jan. Motion carried.

Jan moved to appoint Cathy and Helen to work with the Tinmouth Mountain School principal and with Gail Fallar to develop rules for the distribution of funds from the Alan Hochberg Science Education Memorial fund. Seconded by Martha. Motion carried.

Jan expressed thanks to Cathy for her work over a very short time frame to help make the pavilion grant application possible.

Cathy reflected that providing Reserve Fund support for this project is exactly what that Fund is for. We have only voted to use it once, and we could remember that the goal of this pot of money is to allow larger projects that benefit the town to move forward.

Jan moved, and Lynn seconded, a motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Helen Mango