

TALES OF TINMOUTH

October 2025
Vol. 39 Number 9

Tinmouth
Vermont

Editors' Notes: *Yeah, it rained, a couple of inches, only need 4 or 5 more!!*

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

~ **Miss Ruth Turns 90!** ~

By Cindy Pollock

When Ruth Drachman first moved to Tinmouth full-time in the 1990s, some friends of hers from Baltimore asked: 'But what will you do there?' She just laughed. "Someone else advised me to be sure to have plenty of record albums and lots of books to get through the long Vermont winters," Ruth recalled. That someone was Madeleine L'Engle, who wrote the classic novel, "*A Wrinkle in Time*," just one of many authors Ruth has met over the years.

Ruth and her husband Bob moved to Tinmouth to retire, after summering in the area for years with their two sons, Michael and Peter. "We liked the idea that the boys would spend time somewhere that we hoped to retire to one day," Ruth said. "That way, they'd be more inclined to visit us."

And that's exactly what happened. Ruth and Bob bought land and built their house, which created many fond memories for their extended family. "We loved the welcoming community here," she said. "So many people just embraced us."

Now, 30 years later, Ruth still lives in that home, with family visiting many times during the year. She has carved out a full retirement life for herself in Tinmouth. Soon after she moved here, she began working at the town office with Gail Fallar, at first for just a few hours once a week and then two full days a week. "Gail and I had a blast working together."

One day Ruth asked Gail, "Do you think I could have a story hour back there (in the old library)?" When the reply was yes, that was the beginning of Ruth's transformation of the space into a library for all ages . . . the space had been a Children's library (created in 1977) before the school was required to establish its own.

A lot of hard work and sweat labor went into making the new Tinmouth Library a reality, including obtaining grant funding to rehab the space. Ruth figured out the grant portion with the help of a niece who had grant writing experience. As for the sweat labor, "It took me about six months with the help of several other women in

town to sort through all the boxes stored there and reorganize the space," she said.

Ruth then formed the Tinmouth Library Board of Trustees and began hosting story hours for children, author readings, Vermont Reads programs, as well as a book group for adults in town. Ruth and Nelson Jaquay also formed a writing group that still continues today. Because she wanted "to have the appropriate credentials," Ruth took some classes to earn her library certificate in the state of Vermont.

Ruth's long career as a teacher paved the way for her second career as Tinmouth's librarian: "I realized after we moved here that I missed working with children."

What has she enjoyed most about living in Tinmouth? "The strong community," she said. "I have met so many people here through my work at the town office and the library."

And that community really stepped up when Ruth suffered a stroke in 2020. Her two granddaughters arrived soon after to help her with her recovery at home, followed by her sons. When her family had to return to their own lives away from Vermont, friends and neighbors helped to provide around-the-clock care and assistance to Ruth for several months until she could manage more independently.

Ruth still goes to the library every Thursday afternoon, with a little help from her friends. She and her son, Michael, also host a story hour for young children weekly during the summers.

On October 7, Ruth celebrates her 90th birthday. When asked if she has any words of wisdom to share, she said: "Be kind to your neighbor. And, I've always found it helpful to have younger friends who can drive!"

If you are passing by the library on a Thursday afternoon, stop in and say hello to Ruth. She's a Tinmouth treasure. (And if you're looking for a good book to read, she's sure to have a few recommendations.)



Ruth and Gail having a 'blast' in 1996. Photo by Bill Jenkins



~ **Tinmouth Game Supper** ~
By Sherry Johnson

If you are new to town, the biggest fundraiser for the Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department (TVFD) is approaching. On **November 22nd**, the TVFD will hold its annual Game Supper. We ask everyone in the community to participate in some way. Members of the community prepare some of the food and also provide the supplies needed for the supper.

Right now we are looking for pie bakers, especially berry pie makers (we can supply the berries). Also, we will need chicken and biscuit makers (chicken supplied).

If you can help us with any of these items, call me or send an email, and we will put you down for your specialty.

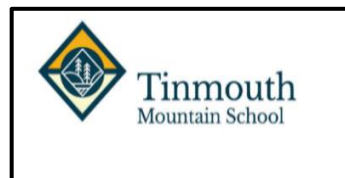
Phone calls for salad, dressing, milk, cider, coffee and whipping cream will go out in November.

We also can use help preparing the vegetables, meat, making meatballs, setting up, cleaning up and serving. The exact day and time for these activities will be advertised on Front Porch Forum, and *Tales of Tinmouth*.

Please call or email me if you can help. If you would like to do something different this year, just let me know and I will see that you are put on the new "list".

As always, the Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department appreciates your support.

Call Sherry Johnson at 802-446-3307 or email her at vtsjohnson@icloud.com



School is in full swing! Our 5/6 class has a trip planned for Boston in May (be on the watch for fundraising adventures), 5/6 has also hiked up the mountain twice, butterflies have been released, every classroom is enjoying outdoor classroom time as a way to end the week, and academics are in full force. Our latest in-school fundraiser is the penny war, where each class is competing against the others to win a pizza party. Every penny counts as a point, and silver change and paper money take away from your total. There have been some pretty heated moments with learning patience and the art of the long game.

This year, we are focusing on safety inside and outside the school as our goal; last year, we concentrated on aligning behavior expectations within. We had our first fire drill which was a success. We will have more and we will practice our relocation drill throughout the year. Safety does not just concentrate on drills, it also focuses on internal procedures from recess to exit doors in the classrooms. While we align those procedures, teachers will also partake in table-top scenarios to build confidence and awareness. We continue to strive to find our balance as a small school in a larger setting.

Lastly, this month I would like to introduce our Kindergarten teacher, **Alexa Stamey**. Miss Alexa has three daughters, and she is very excited that her youngest gets to come to Tinmouth Mountain School for Pre-K! Miss Alexa enjoys spending time with family and friends when she is not teaching at TMS. She also loves outdoor activities like hiking and cross-country skiing (she even has plans to introduce cross-country skiing to our kindergarteners, possibly). One interesting fact is that she is a big Disney fan—she even used to work there!

I hope you all have a remarkable fall, and I look forward to seeing you on **Halloween for our annual costume parade at 12:15 pm (ish)**. *Around the Town Green, a visit to the Town Office and back to the Community Center.*

Jenn Galusha-Brothers
Principal
Tinmouth Mountain School

"If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn." Ignacio Estrada

Please Recycle or Pass Along Tales!!

As day light hours are getting shorter . . .

~ **Please BE Safe – Wear a Safety Vest** ~

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

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

The Tinmouth School Parents' Club is once again sponsoring **Trunk or Treat**. This is a celebration of Halloween, kids wear costumes, play games, and visit the trunks of folks who park in the Community Center's parking lot. The trunks are full of treats!! This year it will be held on Thursday, **October 30th from 6:00-7:00**.

If you don't get many trick or treaters on Halloween, you can 'treat' the kids this way.

Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project Receives State Grant

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Watershed Management Division Lakes & Ponds Program awarded a grant of up to \$9,200 to the Town of Tinmouth/Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project (TPMP) for 2025. The grant money was used to pay for AE Commercial Diving Services to suction harvest and pull Eurasian watermilfoil from the lake/pond. The harvesting occurred during the July and August of 2025.

The main purpose of the Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project is to control the spread of the Eurasian watermilfoil (that is an “aquatic invasive” plant that invaded the pond more than 23 years ago) and to encourage the growth of native plants. Eurasian watermilfoil is a non-native introduced aquatic plant that has shown it is highly invasive in Vermont water bodies and in other regions of North America. Once in a waterbody, it cannot be eradicated, but does need to be controlled. An on-going endeavor for TPMP and the Town.

TPMP generates funds to hire divers to harvest the watermilfoil, and teach people about Eurasian watermilfoil - and the way that it is transported into and from Tinmouth Pond and other bodies of water. TPMP publishes a newsletter several times a year called *The Pond Frog* to help educate folks on how to identify and how to prevent the spread of invasive plants and invasive species. The funds from the Vermont DEC Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-in-Aide are a much appreciated help with these efforts.

WARNING TOWN OF TINMOUTH RE-ADOPTION OF THE TINMOUTH TOWN PLAN

Residents and voters of the Town of Tinmouth, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned that the Tinmouth Planning Commission will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** on **Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 7:00 PM** at the Tinmouth Town Office to consider revisions/updates to the Tinmouth Town Plan.

Meetings are now in person at the Town Office. If you wish to participate via teleconferencing please call or email the Town Office for the link. 802-446-2498 or tinmouthtown@vermontel.net.

Statement of Purpose - These revisions update the existing **2017 Town Plan as amended in 2020**, with changes regarding Housing, Census and School Information, Mapping, and other minor changes.

The Town Plan is applicable to the entire town.

COPIES OF THE PROPOSED UPDATE ARE AVAILABLE AT THE TINMOUTH TOWN OFFICE.



~ **Library News** ~

By Cathy Reynolds

~ **Vermont Reads** ~

The Light Pirate by Lily Brooks-Dalton is this year's Vermont Reads book and the Tinmouth Library is hosting a book discussion with free copies of the book available.

“Set in the near future, this hopeful story of survival and resilience follow Wanda - a luminous child born out of a devastating hurricane-as she navigates a rapidly changing world.”

Thanks to the Vermont Humanities Program, the Tinmouth Library has received 15 copies of the book which are available free to any Tinmouth reader. Middletown Springs Library also has books for Middletown readers.

We will host a book discussion in conjunction with the Middletown Library on **Saturday, December 6th at 1:30 at the Tinmouth Roadhouse**. Remote attendance will be available; please contact Cathy below if you would like to participate remotely. Our book discussion leader will be Marsha Cassel, and delicious treats, tea and coffee will be served.

Books can be picked up at the Tinmouth Library anytime the Town Office is open, or by contacting Cathy Reynolds by phone or text at 802-881-6775.

You don't have to come to the discussion to receive a copy of the book, but we hope you will.

Give a call or text Cathy with any questions or for more information at 802-881-6775.

Friends of the Rutland Free Library

November Book Sale

10 Court St., Rutland, VT 802-773-1860

Friday, Nov. 7 (10 - 4) and

Saturday, Nov. 8 (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

~ **Tinmouth's Website** ~

Tinmouthvt.gov - There is lots of information about the town on its website, take a few minutes and check it out!!

~ Now Taking Orders for Tinnmouth Shirts! ~

By Nikki Pfeiffer

Proceeds will benefit the Student Activities Fund at Tinnmouth Elementary School.

Design inspired by George LeBoutillier's Journals. George and his wife Miriam were integral members of the Tinnmouth community. His legacy remains in many forms in our town and others, including signage, architectural design and continues with this shirt design. These shirts are 100% cotton and will be screen printed on light green shirts with black ink.

The ordering window will remain open until October 31st. Cost will be \$20 per shirt.

If you would like to order, please contact me via email: pfeiffernr@gmail.com or Call 446-7826.

I will send an email with details for pick up after the ordering window is complete and the order is placed with the print shop. I will set up a Saturday pick up at the Old Firehouse after the order is complete. Please feel free to reach out with any questions!



ADULT UNISEX - "KIWI"

ADULT WOMEN'S - "LEAF"

YOUTH - "LIME"

~ Historical & Genealogical Society ~
Annual Meeting 10/26/25

The THGS will hold its annual meeting on **Sunday, October 26th, at 1:30 at the Tinnmouth Church Community Room.** Potluck lunch – please bring a dish to share, followed by a brief meeting and then a guest speaker.

Roger Ballou, an Industrial Archeology Consultant, will talk about the history of the iron industry and Tinnmouth connections/sites. He may bring samples of ore, slag, and iron as well. He has been investigating sites in Tinnmouth where there were blast furnaces, foundries, bloomeries, etc. He has also prepared a map or two.

THGS received the gift of a "Tinnmouth Furnace" this year and is trying to determine where in Tinnmouth they were built and sold – a notice from the 1819 Rutland Herald advertised the 'Tinnmouth Furnace In Blast' with kettles, chaldrons, cooking and parlor stoves, hollow ware and machinery were for sale there!

All are welcome, please join us to explore a bit of Tinnmouth history!!

~ Legislative Update ~

By Rep. Chris Pritchard

For this update in the off session, I wanted to let you know some of the things I have been involved in throughout the summer. I have attended many meetings from invitations I have received through my legislative e-mail. I have several more that I have committed to through October and November.

I have touched base with constituents. I have attended 22 meetings, some with local Select-boards, School Board Chairs, Town Clerks and 911 coordinators. I have also met with several folks in the District to help them with concerns they have brought to my attention and tried to find resolutions for them. Some of these folks I have not been able to help through a legislative pathway but I try to stay in contact with them. I have a list of all of these constituents that I can review in the event that a legislative path will open and create an opportunity that may help them.

There have been several folks that I have been able to help and resolve the problems and concerns they reached out to me for help with.

One in particular I was grateful to be a part of. I had only been in the legislature for a few weeks when I received a call from a constituent who had fallen prey to a scam and was facing a \$60,000 loss. This constituent had reached out to other sources trying to get help with this and was unable to obtain it; that's when she decided to reach out to me. Quite frankly, I had no idea what to do, how to go about it or if I could even help her, but I assured her I would try. I sought advice from several fellow legislators and ended up taking a trip to see Attorney General Charity Clark. It was Friday afternoon and AG Clark had left for the day but I was fortunate enough to catch Christopher Curtis the Assistant Attorney General and Director of the Consumer Assistance program. He immediately engaged with my constituent who I had on the phone and through his hard work over the next several weeks, was able to make her and her husband and their small business whole again.

I am currently working on issues in the towns of Wells, Rupert and Pawlet. One of these concerns was brought to my attention by the Pawlet Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, regarding a fraudulent property sale scam that has surfaced in our District and across the state. I have been working with Deb on this and have reached out to Representative Sandy Pinsonault from Dorset, who is also a Town Clerk and sits on the Government Operations Committee. We are in the process of setting up a meeting so we can get a framework that Sandy and I can take to legislative counsel to have a bill drafted and submitted so there is a opportunity for this concern to be addressed by the legislature in the second half of the biennium.

I have also been active in my responsibilities with the Rutland County Delegation being active and attending

various meetings. I attended a function that Peg TV sponsored in Rutland where Attorney General Charity Clark and Christopher Curtis attended and spoke about the scams that occur in the state and how to best deal with them. I was invited by Representatives Burditt and Bosch to attend a Town Hall meeting in West Rutland with Speaker of the House Jill Krowinski to share concerns with her and visit a housing project in West Rutland. I joined Senator Collamore, Weeks and Williams in Randolph to meet with ANR Secretary Julie Moore and had the opportunity to share my concerns with Act 64 of 2015, (the 3 acre Impervious Rule), that I have been adamantly opposed to as it is presently written. I feel that this law has done great harm to Vermonters, small Vermont businesses and will continue to do so until it is repealed and repaired. Sadly, our committee chose not to do that with still the second half of the biennium left for us to work on and fix. Some small tweaks were made to ease some of the pain but I felt it only delayed the inevitable financial harm it will cause. H481 which became Act 37 was accepted and passed by the House and Senate and signed into law by the Governor. In the near future, this will affect Vermonters in the Connecticut River water shed and those Vermonters that find themselves on that list will experience the same harm that folks in the Lake Champlain watershed have had inflicted on them. I believe Vermonters want clean water and a healthy environment but there must be an equitable balance between achieving that outcome without forcing Vermont families and businesses to live beyond their means. Both Act 67 and Act 37 I feel they have clearly failed to achieve this.

I received an invitation from Wells constituent Mary Nichols, who is the Executive Director at the Child First Advocacy Center and will be attending their Open House at the Howe Center in Rutland October 3rd .

I will be attending a Health care meeting at the Rutland Hospital on October 13th. On October 17th I will attend an economic development meeting on act 250 and the 3 acre rule at the Hub in Rutland and later that morning, a forestry field trip ending at the Wood Pellet factory in Clarendon.

I will be at the Manchester Library on October 22nd for a meeting hosted by Representative Monique Priestley regarding data privacy and Artificial Intelligence (AI) concerns.

Lastly, I wanted to let you know about the resource that is available to you for Act 73(The Education Reform transformation). A task force is working through the summer on this and working on redistricting maps which will need to be completed by January if this is to continue to move forward. I am providing a link that will take you to the Homepage so that you can see scheduled meetings, view past meetings and there is a link on that page that will allow you to register to offer public input during

meetings if you would like.

<https://aoa.vermont.gov/school-district-redistricting-task-force>

If there is anything you think I may be able to help you with please reach out to me. Thank You for the opportunity you have given me to serve you.

Chris

cpritchard@leg.state.vt.us 802-558-8918

~ **Community News** ~

*Welcome to Tinmouth's newest resident – **James Felix Edmunds, son of James and Kanwara Edmunds**, was born on October 2nd. Proud grandparents are **Jamie and Connie Edmunds**.*

Congratulations to all!

Get Well Wishes are sent to **Helen Buffum, Chuck Bronk, and former Tinmouth resident Sandra Weindel**.

*Happy Birthday Wishes to **Ruth Drachman**, who is celebrating 90 years this month! Best Wishes!!*

"I want to express my deep appreciation for all the cards, phone calls, prayers and well wishes given to Bart and I during his long illness and subsequent death.

I am very honored and proud to be part of a loving a caring community." Sincerely,

Beth Eaton

~ **Christmas Elves Looking for Families** ~

If you are, or know of a family, that could use a bit of assistance with the Holidays this year, there are a group of people willing to help out. The Tinmouth Community Fund provides grants to help cover costs of outerwear, clothes, and books/games/toys. The Roy & Anne Wilbur Fund, with assistance from the Mill River Honor Society, provides food 'baskets'(really a few boxes of goodies).

Please contact Gail at the Town Office for details.

802-446-2498 ~ a land line – not text-able!!

I'm Still Looking for Marbles!!

Any size, any color

Thank you to those who dropped some off at the Town Office!

Please contact Daniel Gervais at **236-1915 or 293-5746**

~ **Nature Notes** ~

Daylight hours are getting shorter, leaves are falling, killer frost has hit, wood piles are growing (soon to start shrinking), crisp fall air greets you in the morning. . .

Lilacs are blooming – yes, indeed – Glenn Merrill brought in a small rosette on October 1st. Others were spotted at the Church – a rather rare sight this time of year!!

Mandala Rock Painting Class

Funded by the Tinmouth Community Fund Grant Program & FREE for Tinmouth Residents

Sunday November 2, 2025
1pm to 4pm
Tinmouth Old Firehouse

Please sign up by 10/30 · All art supplies are provided · Just bring 2 or 3 prewashed rocks (soft & round rocks are preferred)



This class will offer participants the opportunity to: get out in the forest and gather a few rocks · spend quality time with friends & neighbors · learn a new form of art to create beautiful things · enjoy healthy snacks · practice self-care & relaxation

Contact Amy at
amy.martone@outlook.com
to sign up



Dave Merrill

Tractor and small excavator work

802-417-6278

Stump grinding, Rototilling,
Etc.



- New Construction
- Additions
- Renovations
- Framing
- Siding
- Trim Work

**S. Cameron Lepley
Construction**

802.446.2900

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COME CHECK OUT OUR NEW DELI !!

THE DELI IS OPEN

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY

FROM 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

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 DELI HOURS ALONG WITH SOME SANDWICH SPECIALS.

DON'T FORGET YOUR SLICED DELI MEATS & CHEESE

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.

All highlights are edited by Ye Olde Editor.

Select Board (SB) ~ 9/11/2025 (Regular)

Members present: Melody Squier and Judy Gilmore

Others present: Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Michael Fallar, Ann Lundquist, Rep. Chris Pritchard, Sen. Terry Williams, Chris Martone – Transfer Station Manager, and Gail Fallar-Select Board Assistant (SBA) and via Zoom: Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, and Rick Fallar

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

Citizen's Input ~ Chris Martone thanked the Select Board for serving, noted they are doing a good job.

Highway ~

Eric noted paving is nearly done, the new cab and chassis is in the town garage – will have to wait until March for the plow and dump body to be added. Some discussion about whether the SB authorized that or wanted to wait. Board authorized Kevin to sign necessary paperwork next week, when he is available.

Winter Sand ~ After brief discussion, Board voted to waive bid procedure for winter sand, determining that it was in the best interest of the Town to purchase sand from Pike Industries for this winter.

Winter Maintenance Class ~ Eric advised all road crew members will attend. He is also going to attend a Pavement Management Class.

Rep. Pritchard and Senator Williams ~

Rep. Pritchard noted he serves on the House Natural Resources Committee, Sen. Williams serves on the Senate Education and Natural Resources Committees (senators serve on 2). Judy raised concerns with hydraulic studies, increased sizes of culverts being required (12" driveway to be replaced with a 60" culvert for example, and lack of grant funding to help with new requirements (more funding is going to bigger towns – little towns are being left out). No easy answers. Both Chris and Terry noted there are major stormwater requirement coming down the pike, not sure what to do or how to pay for it, or how to make it apply fairly to all. There is some movement to make all towns a storm water utility – and thus the towns would become liable for those expenses and stormwater measures. They both suggested keeping informed about legislative actions – proposed legislation and to provide input to legislative members. Gail provided an overview of the proposed 2-way radio tower permit process (not easy). Melody noted it wouldn't work for the fire department. Concern was expressed regarding education reform. Chris and Terry noted it was the Governor's vision to improve the quality of education as well as reforming the funding and re-districting – it will take time. Michael, as a long time member of the

Planning Commission, expressed concern with Montpelier (the Legislature) passing cookie-cutter land use planning requirements – that don't fit little towns.

Board thanked Chris and Terry for attending a board meeting to get local input.

Transfer Station~ Chris Martone asked to address the Board in executive session to discuss personnel issues regarding the Transfer Station. Board voted to allow Chris to determine schedule for one attendant stepping back and another stepping up.

Financial ~

Treasurer advised that the end of year reports are still being worked on.

Bills and Orders ~ Board reviewed warrants. Board voted to approve and accept. Payroll warrants #7, 8, 9, 10 and accounts payable #4, and 5.

Gail advised that the State is now requiring training and **certification for Listers** beginning January 1, 2026, which will require an increase in the Listers budget.

Local Hazard Mitigation Planning ~ Current LHMP expires in April of 2026. It is required to be updated every five years, grant funding was available, now FEMA has clawed it back, the RRPC will try to find an alternative grant source.

Proposer Tower Update ~ Gail advised that the Town's responses (from the SB and PC) had been timely filed. Board voted to ratify actions and responses for PUC filing 25-1679-PET.

Joint meeting with Community Center Board – SB suggested 9/29/25 at 5:30 at the Community Center to do a walk-about to review condition and repairs needed at the CC and the School. SBA will coordinate.

Select Board (SB) ~ 9/2/2025 ~

(Special with Community Center Board)

With thanks to Judy Gilmore, C. Ctr. Bd. Sec.

Select Board members present: Judy Gilmore, Kevin Eaton, and Melody Squier

Community Center Board members present: Judy Gilmore, Martha Stanley and Josh Squier

Others present Trish Warfle – Community Center Building Manager, Michael Fallar, Ann Lundquist, Marshall Squier, and Gail Fallar - Select Board Assistant, and via Zoom: Jenn Galusha-Brothers – School Principal, Kim Harbough, Sherry Johnson, and Rick Fallar

Kevin called the meeting to order noting that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss guidance for use of the new pavilion.

Members reviewed the 2016 Community Center Agreement between the Town and the School District. It does not include the new pavilion, so members decided that the Town will insure the structure and that the Select Board will determine use guidance rules.

Melody proposed draft guidelines for the use of the pavilion. Members reviewed and discussed. All agreed

that public use of the pavilion would follow the same rules as use of the playground during school hours – not allowed.

There was much discussion about whose insurance company would provide coverage – currently the school’s will cover school events, the town’s will cover town events and the recommendation from both companies is that private rental users should provide proof of insurance from their own homeowner’s coverage. Questions will be forwarded to the insurance companies for clarification.

Members also discussed use of alcohol, will it be allowed? Inside use is covered by the community center rental agreement. No decision on outside use.

After much discussion it was determined that anyone renting the Community Center would also have exclusive use of the pavilion – a reserved sign will be provided when the user picks up the key at the Town Office.

Rules for use of the pavilion will be posted, once rules are finalized.

Martha volunteered to be a back-up for Trish – first time users need a walk-through, and a site visit following use to make sure everything is left clean, nothing broken.

Issues with school maintenance (or lack thereof) were discussed: the motion lights on back side of the Community Center near the pavilion are not working – there is rot and damage above the kitchen window, the handicap bridge to the playground needs repair, the handicap ramp into the Community Center needs repair, etc. The facilities manager for MRUUSD has been advised several times, but no progress has been made on getting them fixed.

The Select Board will come up with guidelines for use of the pavilion.

Another joint meeting will be scheduled once answers from the insurance companies comes in.

Select Board (SB) ~ 9/23/2025 (Special)

Members present Kevin Eaton, Judy Gilmore, and Melody Squier

Others present: Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Michael Fallar, Cathy Reynolds, and Gail Fallar-Select Board Assistant (SBA) and via Zoom: Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, and Rick Fallar

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Highway Equipment Fund.

Much discussion about the need to better track maintenance – in FY25 \$20K was budgeted for repairs/maintenance and almost \$43K was spent. If equipment is kept longer, more money will need to be budgeted.

Discussed keeping the black truck (2019) as the spare tandem, when time to replace the orange truck (2021) decide which truck to trade or sell – depending on miles and condition - Ronnie’s truck (2021) is used more – plowing back roads and trucking sand and gravel.

Replacement grader – current grader is a Champion – hard to get parts for repairs – would like to switch to a Cat or John Deere – used – new is \$400K.

Discussed trade-in replacement rotations – 10 or 15 years - 550 (2020) already has 73,000 miles – it is used every day.

Discussed keeping regular maintenance records – oil changes, tire rotation, greasing, repairs, etc. Select Board would like to review a few times a year. Need a chart of scheduled maintenance. Board asked Eric to do this as well as track repairs for all equipment.

Board needs to review the Equipment Fund spreadsheet yearly to update what needs to be replaced sooner or later. Reviewed current version prepared by Cathy – suggested updates she will add, as well as using a 3.5% inflation rate. Board thanked her for her assistance with the spreadsheet.

Need to look at equipment, only replace if needed – not because it is on the list for a particular year – life expectancy - keep loader and skid steer 30 years?

In other business, the Board agreed to hire an attorney for dealing with the proposed tower, a donor has stepped forward with funding.

Select Board (SB) ~ 9/29/2025

(Special with Community Center Board)

On-site @ Community Center and School

With thanks to Judy Gilmore, C. Ctr. Bd Sec.

Select Board members present: Judy Gilmore, Kevin Eaton, and Melody Squier

Community Center Board members present: Judy Gilmore, Martha Stanley and Josh Squier

Others present: Jenn Galusha-Brothers – School Principal, Michael Fallar, Ann Lundquist, Marshall Squier, and Gail Fallar - Select Board Assistant

After a brief stop at the new pavilion, a tour of the exterior of the Community Center and School was taken and some of the following deficiencies were noted:

- grapevine growing up along the backside of the community center
- stucco is missing on foundation
- rotting clapboards and peeling paint need addressing
- heat pump ‘covers’ are unsightly and dangerous– one even dumps water into a window – one does not have one
- wall area above the kitchen transition is of great concern, needs to be addressed before winter

A full list of repairs/maintenance should be compiled - between the Community Center and the School, there would be enough work to keep a contractor busy for a while. If the work goes out to bid, local contractors should be encouraged to bid.

Josh (as the School Board Member) explained how hard it is to get other Board members to fund fixes or get behind fixes; suggested many people may need to make noise for issues to get addressed. He explained that the

MRUUSD Buildings and Grounds Committee deals more with allocating surplus funds for extra maintenance than routine maintenance, suggested appealing directly to the MRUUSD Board.

Discussed getting the Superintendent and School Board to do a walk around with the Community Center Board and Select Board to review issues prior to the MRUUSD Board meeting at the Community Center on the 15th.

After much discussion, especially regarding the condition of the exterior of the Community Center, decisions were made for the Community Center Board to draft a letter to be submitted to the Supervisory Union to document some of the issues, and for the Select Board to also draft a letter voicing its concerns.

Those present also discussed lack of communication between the Supervisory Union Facilities Manager and the Town and Community Center Building Manager (Trish).

Members vote to approve the pavilion use guidance document with updates.

Planning Commission ~ 9/18/25

Members present in-person: Michael Fallar, Vito Macaluso, Ann Lundquist, Judy Gilmore, Andy Gilmore, Larry Carabeau, and members present via Zoom: Kim Harbaugh and Pat Psholka

Others: present in-person: Gail Fallar Secretary

And via Zoom: Sherry Johnson

Minutes of 8/21/25; 8/26/25; and 9/3/25 were all approved.

Update of the proposed ITW tower – Gail advised a response from the PC had been filed on time and asked that the PC ratify the action and contents of the response. (The PC appointed Gail at its August 21st meeting to represent the PC.) Members voted to ratify the response and its filing.

Members reviewed final draft of the proposed Town Plan update – found a few minor edits – removed page 95 (for now – will add back in with the upcoming amendments) as that map needs data/names to accompany the numbers on the structures, corrected photo captions, and a couple of typos. After discussion, members voted to accept the proposed updates with the corrections/edits and to move the Plan to a hearing.

Members then set a hearing date of Thursday, October 23rd at 7:00 pm. for the new updated Town Plan.

Members also set a hearing date of Thursday, October 23rd for Subdivision application 25-01 for the Valentine Farm LLC request to amend its 24-01 permit. There are five lots that have minor changes to their acreage/lot lines.

Regular October meeting was changed from the 16th to the 23rd as well.

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

Recreation Committee ~ 9/22/25

With thanks to Martha Stanley, Sec.

Members present: Robbie Leeds, Doug Fontain, Martha Stanley

Community Member: Gail Fallar

Committee Status: Members voted to make a recommendation to the Select Board that they appoint Chris Martone to the Recreation Committee.

New Business

In the interest of Town insurance coverage, events such as pickleball, volleyball or other community activities at the Community Center need to be sponsored by a community organization such as the Recreation Committee. For example, the Recreation Committee will sponsor pickleball. Form needs to be filled out and a contact person listed.

Board Game Night:

It has been suggested that there would be interest in a board game night especially as winter months approach. One idea was perhaps the Roadhouse could be a venue. Robbie will discuss with Corey at the Roadhouse.

Introduction to Pickleball:

Martha will see what time/ day might work best for people also what works best for the coaches.

Old Business

Doug has the pole safety pad for the second basket ball hoop. Robbie will help with the installation.

Trail Mapping

Doug and Robbie will meet and map the trail from Merrill Spring Road to Ricketts Road and the Purchase Loop.

Bridge to the Playground - needs repair. Gail put up safety cones. Doug volunteered to repair. The committee will ask the Select Board to approve money for materials.

Next meeting is November 10.

Community Center Board ~ 9/2/25 & 9/29/25

See Select Board highlights – joint meetings.

Equity & Inclusion Committee ~ 09/25/2025

With thanks to Alyssa Adler, Sec.

Members present via Zoom: Kim Harbaugh, Sherry Johnson, Rainbow Squier, Cynthia Pollock

Members present in-person: Alyssa Adler, Melody Squier, and Ellie Ewing

Others: Gail Fallar

Regarding the Pavilion - a meeting with the Select Board, School Board, and other community members occurred to discuss rules/regulations for Pavilion usage.

Melody reported Pavilion and Community Center insurance coverage, liability during school and after school, weekends, “town sponsored” events, and private engagements were discussed. This discussion will continue at a later meeting.

Melody stated interest in having a “pavilion opening”, as a community gathering to admire our newest addition to town. Tentative date October 12. Members discussed special invitees such as the timber frame company and potential activities for gathering. Ellie volunteered to work with Melody on this event.

Welcome sign update - Melody and Rainbow have continued considering sign size/material/production. Committee approved Rainbow to gather quotes from various local sign making organizations. Committee discussed other town's “welcome signs” that we enjoy visually. As far as funds allow, signs are proposed to go on Route 140 bordering Wallingford and the corner of Routes 133 and 140.

Town Operators Manual - Melody has spoken with Todd Dennis who is happy to help us update the manual. Members hypothesized the latest version of the manual was compiled by Logan Birdsall. Melody stated the next task at hand is for volunteers to go through/update the book section by section. Alyssa and Cindy volunteered to help with this process. Melody reported we have an editor for when we are near the final stages of the update.

Other business

Family Heritage Dinner - someone recently asked Melody if the committee would hold this event again, members discussed enjoying this idea and potentially shooting again for March.

Contra dances - Alyssa inquired about reinvigorating the Tinnmouth contra dances, members reported interest. To be discussed more at a future meeting.

Next E&I meeting December 4th at 6:15 pm.

Old Creamery Committee ~ 9/28/25

Present were members Stan Wilbur, Vito Macaluso and Michael Fallar, as well as Gail Fallar.

Committee re-organized – Michael was re-elected Chair, Gail volunteered to continue as Scribe.

The Town Treasurer reported the \$20K ARPA money had to be transferred back (in 2024) to the general fund due to ARPA rules. Current checkbook balance is \$6,014. It is the Treasurer’s understanding that the Select Board will soon transfer the money back.

Michael volunteered to put up staging so that Kevin Eaton can spray paint the south side of the building.

Still need to get a determination on lead paint in the interior. Members visited the cellar, needs cleaning, found wood for the repair of the upstairs floor. 2nd floor was visited as well, needs an outlet for a light, would like to work on door.

Light under the porch is malfunctioning, electrician will be contacted to fix that and add an outlet upstairs.

Work day and meeting at the beginning of November was discussed – no date picked.

Tinnmouth Pond House Rental

November 1 – April 30

1-2 persons ~ Furnished

Rick - 802-446-2870


Tinnmouth Road House and Best Moon Catering

The Tinnmouth Roadhouse is open every Saturday for brunch from 8 am until 1 pm.

We have fully cooked and ready to heat and eat frozen meals in our dining room freezer as well.

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

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~ October 2025 Calendar of Events ~

Fire Department	Thursday	2 nd	7:00	Fire House
Select Board	Thursday	9 th	7:00	Town Office & Virtual Pavilion
Pavilion Celebration	Sunday	12 th	Noon -4:00	Pavilion
Town Office Closed	Saturday	18 th	☺	CLOSED
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Monday	20 th		Don't Miss It!
Conservation Commission	Monday	20 th	7:00	Town Office & Virtual
Planning Commission	Thursday	23 rd	7:00	Town Office & Virtual
Town Plan Hearing	Thursday	23 rd	7:00	Town Office & Virtual
THGS Annual Meeting	Sunday	26 th	1:30	Church Community Rm

~ November 2025 Calendar of Events ~

Mandala Rock Painting Class	Sunday	2 nd	1:00-4:00	Old Fire House
Fire Department	Thursday	6 th	7:00	Fire House
Recreation Committee	Monday	10 th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
Select Board	Thursday	13 th	7:00	Town Office & Virtual
Planning Commission	Thursday	20 th	7:00	Town Office & Virtual
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Thursday	20 th		Don't Miss It!
TVFD Game Supper	Saturday	22 nd	4:30	Community Center
Community Thanksgiving Service	Sunday	23 rd	4:30	Church

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.

Craft Club ~ Mondays at the Old Fire House/Old Creamery ~ 1:00-3:00 All Welcome!

The Town Office will be CLOSED on Saturday, October 18th !!



Help us help you.
Please Clean Your Chimney!
 Before it gets too cold, now is the time
 to get your chimney cleaned!!
 Remember a chimney fire can become
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 Thank you,
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