

TALES OF TINMOUTH

July 2026
Vol. 40 Number 5

Tinmouth
Vermont

Editors' Notes: *Happy 250th America!!*

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).

Special Select Board Meeting

Monday, July 6th 6:30

Old Fire House

The Select Board holding a meeting for ATV/SXS folks to explain their request to travel with those vehicles on town roads. All are welcome to offer support and ask questions.

~ Library News ~

By Ruth Drachman, Librarian



SUMMER STORY HOURS AT THE TINMOUTH LIBRARY

WITH MICHAEL DRACHMAN

WEDNESDAYS AT
11A.M.

Starting Wednesday, June 24th

ALL AGES WELCOME



Tinmouth Community Fun Day!

Saturday, July 11th in "downtown" Tinmouth

3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

By Sherry Johnson

This is a day to celebrate summer, community, and fun in Tinmouth! The day is free to all, and will be filled with fun, games, and lots of chances to cool off in the summer heat.

The day will kick off with a **parade in the center of town at 3 pm**, followed by lots of great activities. Want to be in the *parade*? Decorate a tractor, bicycle, 4-wheeler, motorcycle, lawnmower . . . and join the fun from the Transfer Station (line-up is at 2:45), and then head up Route 140 to go around the loop by the church and school! Don't be late, you might miss it!!

This will be followed by *dedication* of the new Flag Pole to celebrate America's 250th anniversary! On the Town Green in front of the Church. THGS is organizing this.

There will be *cookies and books* at the Library (and maybe a story will be read), horse drawn equipment and other old stuff on display at the Old Town Sheds - across from the Town Office, and the Tinmouth Historical & Genealogical Society will also display *numerous exhibits, photographs, and artifacts* in the Old Fire House.

Ice cream sundaes will be under the new pavilion this year. An *Arts & Crafts Exhibit* will be inside the Community Center. And all around the Center, there will be games, water activities, cornhole, family softball game, and the *Electrostatic Cats* will be performing in the afternoon/evening—GREAT music to enjoy, and/or dance to.

Supper/Dinner is a potluck, and your dinner donations (think salads, casseroles, desserts, snacks) can be dropped at the Community Center kitchen from 2:00 pm on. The Community Fund is providing hot dogs, rolls, and lemonade.

We need volunteers to set-up and clean-up!! Please contact Melody Squier (melodysquier@gmail.com) to volunteer. Check the Town's web site and Front Porch Forum for updates!

~ Donations and Support for Tales ~

Thank you to all who sent donations to keep *Tales* in print. Over \$750 was received! Expenses are around \$3,000 so we have a ways to go. Your support is greatly appreciated and needed!

~ 2026 Grievance Hearing ~

Change of Value notices will be mailed soon to anyone who added a deck, built a house or garage, etc. with Grievance Hearings to be held **July 20th, at 6:30**. You will need to call to make an appointment.

Any questions, please call the Town Office at 802-446-2498 or email tinmouthlisters@vermontel.net.

~ Tax Bills ~

As the Listers are late getting the Grand List completed, the Select Board will have to set a new due date for the first half property taxes – as 30 days' notice is required.

So more than likely, the first payment will be not be due until August 31st.

~ Tinmouth Historical & Genealogical Society ~

250th Trivia Night at the Old Fire House

Friday, August 7th – 6:30

Save the Date!!

Do you know which battle of the Revolutionary War was actually fought in Vermont? How about the original name for Camel's Hump? Or who was the first governor of Vermont? Test your wits while spending time with family and friends. You'll compete against other teams for prizes and learn fun new facts about the Green Mountain state.

Vermont History Trivia is great way to have fun with friends and family. Expertise isn't necessarily needed-questions are multiple choice to help newbies and history lovers of all ages engage with our state's past (and present). For 2026, the Vermont Historical Society has created special sets of questions that explore aspects related to the 250th anniversary of the U.S. within Vermont. You may learn about things like early Vermonters, significant battles, Indigenous culture, or Vermont place names.

Do you know when Tinmouth was chartered? When the first town meeting was held? Why Tinmouth Pond was officially named Chipman Lake?

~ Community News ~

Get Well Wishes are sent to *Cathy Ricketts*.

Heartfelt Sympathies are sent to friends and family of **Clayton Morris**, he will be missed.

Walter Bohlin's family wishes to express their *deep appreciation* to whoever provided the wonderful flowers for his celebration of life!!

Free Kids Bicycles ~ *Thank you, Mr. Oney!!!* All the bikes quickly disappeared and made many kids happy!



2026 Tinmouth Town

Wide Tag Sales

Saturday, Sept. 5th

9am-3pm

By Sherry Johnson

Time to get out that "stuff" from spring cleaning! The 13th Annual Tinmouth Town Wide Tag Sales will be happening again in 2026, rain or shine.

September 5th, the Saturday of the Labor Day weekend. 9 am - 3 pm.

Once again, we have limited space in the town center for people who are not on the East Road/Mountain View Rd/Route 140 loop. It has been our experience people travel Mountain View Road and East Road. If you are "off the beaten path" so to speak and are a Tinmouth resident, we will have limited space available at the Old Fire House and the Old Creamery if you'd like to have a sale in town. Please sign up early if you would like one of those. We encourage you to join in the fun.

Don't want to have a tag sale, but have stuff that is clean and too good to toss - items can be donated at the end of August to our charity tag sale that benefits the Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department.

If you found something you would like to donate the Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department, call or email me to make arrangements to drop them off. We can take small amounts of small items starting August 15th

Alternately, items can be brought to the Fire House between Noon and 6pm on September 4th. We would prefer large items to be brought on the 4th.

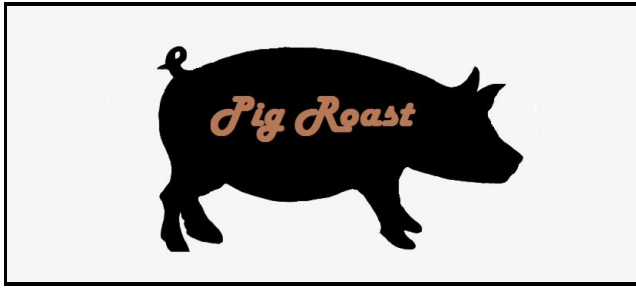
As always, we ask that items **NOT** be left at the Fire Station before then. It is a working station, and we never know when we will be toned out. These items can impede the ability of us responding to an emergency.

Sales location maps can be emailed by request or picked up at the Town Office a few days before the event. There will also be a list at the Fire House the day of the sale. More information will be forthcoming on Front Porch Forum. Although the "official time" is 9am to 3pm, this year we will mark on the tag sale list if your sale starts before 9am, is a two-day sale, or is an inside sale.

We will also have the lists on-line on the town's website-tinmouthvt.org.

Questions? Call Sherry Johnson 446-3307.

If you'd like to sign up to have your tag sale placed on the map; please email your location to me vtsjohnson@icloud.com by August 23rd. *As always, the Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department appreciates your support.*



**2026 Pig Roast Fundraiser
Benefit for the Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project
Friday, July 3, 2026
from 4:30 to 6:00 pm.**

86 West Shore Drive. Tickets are \$25 (pre-order), children under 12 are \$15. To help Jim better prepare, at the door all tickets will be \$30. Take out is \$30 - bring your own containers.

There are picnic tables, as well as a building in the event of rain.

The menu includes slow roasted pork, creamy homemade macaroni and cheese, baked beans, salad, and dessert.

This is becoming an annual event you do not want to miss - hope to see you there! Visit with your neighbors, invite friends to join the event. This event is held rain or shine.

To Preorder: visit the TPMP website at <https://sites.google.com/view/tinmouthpondmilfoil> - tickets can now be ordered online!! Or by contacting: Laurel Swenson at 70 West Shore Drive, email alam2@cox.net; or Gail Fallar @ gfallar@vermontel.net or stop by the Tinmouth Town Office to purchase tickets.

There will also be a Chinese Auction and Quilt Raffle (see photo on next page - or in color if you read *Tales* on the Town's website). All benefit the Milfoil Project's efforts to control milfoil.

~ Town Food Shelf Help Still Needed ~

A reminder that folks need help during the summer, not just during the winter holidays. Laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, dog food, cat food, paper towels, toilet paper, canned tuna or chicken, mayo, ketchup, sweet or snack treats, Kleenex, and if you have extra eggs, or vegetables from your garden, they would be most welcome.

Thank you so much for helping your neighbors.



This is one of the prizes in the Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project (TPMP) Fundraising Raffle

**Drawing is August 8th at the TPMP Annual Meeting
You don't have to be present to win.**

TPMP is raffling the following prizes:

- * Print of Tinmouth Pond from a drone's eye view
- * A homemade strawberry rhubarb pie
- * Tinmouth Pond Sweatshirts
- * Tools
- * Hand Knit "Friends" Mittens
- * Many other items are being gathered as well

To purchase tickets (\$5 each), you can send a check made out to TPMP and indicate how many tickets you would like to purchase. Send your check to TPMP, PO Box 462, Wallingford, VT 05773. Please remember that it often takes several days to get from one end of town to the other!!

You can also purchase tickets from Laurel Swenson (70 West Shore Drive), or Gail Fallar at the Town Office. Alternately, you can visit the TPMP website <https://sites.google.com/view/tinmouthpondmilfoil> and order and pay for tickets there!!

Once Eurasian milfoil invades a water body, it can never be eradicated, one can only try to control it. So fundraising is an annual endeavor for the TPMP to raise \$27,500 to harvest milfoil to try to protect the water quality of Tinmouth Pond aka Chipman Lake.

Thank you for your support, it is greatly appreciated.

~ Vacancies – Positions Open ~

There are two openings on the Conservation Commission. The CC meets every other month. You can contact Chair Ed Hasenhor, or members Doug Fontein, Doug Inkley, Robbie Leeds or Colleen Balch.

If you are interested in serving or need more information, please call the Town Office at 802-446-2498.

~ Meeting Highlights ~

Complete minutes are available at the town office.

All highlights are edited by Ye Olde Editor.

Select Board (SB) ~ 05/14/26 (Regular)

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

Others present:

In-person: Ronnie Crossman-Acting Road Commissioner and Gail Fallar-Select Board Assistant (SBA), as well as 26 townspeople and another 15 or so via Zoom

Members reviewed the **agenda** – move the ATV discussion to the top due to the many folks attending.

ATV ~ Darren Babin requested that the Board consider allowing ATV's and Side by Side vehicles to travel on town roads, and presented a sample ordinance for them to review. He advised that there are several towns that allow them and other towns are working on the issue. He spoke about plans to form a club, noted that users would have to be 16 years old, have a driver's license, the vehicle would need to be registered and insured among other things. The Board listened to many of those present discuss their support of the proposal, the benefits, the steps the club would take, fun and safe activities for families, etc. Only two or three voiced concerns with noise, enforcement, safety of other drivers, private landowners right, dead end roads, speed, etc.

After about an hour and a half of discussion, the Board advised they would hold a special meeting to allow the ATV group to present their proposal to town folks and for them to be able to ask questions. The Board also advised that they wanted voters to have a chance for input at the general election in November. Most of those attending then left the meeting.

Highway ~

Ronnie noted that Eric was injured and would be out for a while. He and Glenn are continuing with summer work, grading, maintenance, etc. The 550 truck is having its brakes fixed at Shaw's in Wallingford, for less than half what Formula Ford quoted. They will be doing crack sealing on paved roads in June.

Paving Bids ~ Board opened bids.

Fuller Sand & Gravel bid \$89.00 per ton and \$1,000 for shouldering

Pike Industries bid \$98.25 per ton and \$6,000 for shouldering

Wilk Paving bid \$99.35 per ton and \$10,335 for shouldering

Board voted to award the contract to **Fuller Sand & Gravel**.

Stormwater Permit ~ After brief discussion Board voted to hire Otter Creek Engineering to help renew the Town's stormwater permit for the town garage, cost is \$1,200. The State requires an engineer.

Salt/Sand Shed Bids ~ Board opened bids.

Britespan (Eagle) bid #1 72' x'80' = 5760 square feet - \$182,331 with upgrade to cover \$188,866

and #2 70' x 84' = 5880 square feet - \$163,138 with upgrade to cover \$168,896

Greystone bid 65' x'84' = 5460 square feet - \$135,710 upgrade to cover \$3,400, engineering \$3,350

Calhoun (Lussier) bid 72' x'80' = 5760 square feet - \$108,660 upgrade to cover \$3,000

After discussion, Judy volunteered to do a comparison, so the Board decided to hold on a decision until she has a chance to review them to make sure they are all bidding on the same structure. Will discuss at special Board meeting on the 21st.

Driveway Permit ~ 690 Route 140 – Cole Elmendorf and Rainbow Squier, after brief discussion, Board voted to approve with conditions. Driveway is being moved to the north to allow better access and sight lines.

Ash Tree Removal Update ~ David Birdsall reported that work was not complete, lots of brush remains, some confusion about who was doing what, who was getting what wood, etc. David noted that "logging is messy". About \$4K has been spent. Discussion of need to chip brush – could be expensive to do that.

Board advised more trees could be cut along McNamara Road to round out Phase 1 (\$5K), to be done by June 30. Board will revisit plan in July for Phase 2.

Larry Carabeau ~ Larry reported a large strip of his alfalfa field died due to the Town plowing snow to create a 'snow' fence to keep snow from drifting onto the East Road on his farm. He can't reseed alfalfa until next year. He provided a photo. Board took under advisement, made no decision.

Financial ~

FY26 Financial Report - 4/30/26 was reviewed and approved.

New Business ~

Liquor Licenses ~ After brief discussion, Board voted to approve liquor licenses for Tinmouth Road House/ Corey Best.

Grand List Extension ~ After brief discussion, Board agreed by consensus to request a 30 day extension to deadlines for the Listers to file the 2026 Grand List.

Special Meeting ~ Board decided to meet on May 21st at 6:30 to review bids for the proposed salt/sand shed and complete balance of agenda, and to meet with the Planning Commission at 7:00 in executive session to consult with the town's attorney regarding litigation.

Executive Session – Board entered Executive Session to discuss personnel issues at 9:15, exited at 9:43. Board voted to pay the acting road commissioner/road foreman \$30 per hour until Eric is able to return to work.

Please Recycle or Pass Along Tales!!

Select Board ~ 05/21/26 (Special) w/Planning Commission @7:00

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

Others present: In-person: PC members - Ann Lundquist, Michael Fallar, and Larry Carabeau; and Gail Fallar-SBA and via Zoom: Ronnie Crossman – Acting Road Commissioner, Sherry Johnson, and Kim Harbaugh

Kevin called the meeting to order at 6:30 and welcomed everyone, noting the purpose of the meeting was to complete work on the agenda of 5/14 and to consult with the Town’s attorney in Executive Session along with the Planning Commission (PC) regarding litigation.

Gail advised that the Town’s application for a paving grant was denied, and there is no word about the Small Safety grant – still waiting to hear.

Gail also advised that Otter Creek Engineering (OCE) advised renewing the existing state stormwater permit – they are working on that- and then once that was in hand to apply to amend it for the salt/sand shed. There may be two state permits required, stormwater and construction.

Michael expressed concern with another big expenditure for a small town and the current economy. Kevin advised the Town has the money and is looking for ways to save on the cost.

Board decided to wait until their regular meeting on June 11th - OCE will have a proposal for time and cost to amend the stormwater permit for the salt/sand shed project.

Judy provided a comparison report for the salt/and shed bids. Given that a stormwater is required before construction can begin, the salt/sand shed proposal was put on hold for a bit.

After brief discussion, Board voted to approve location of the new flag pole on the triangle of lawn in front of the Church. Road crew was approved to dig the hole for its foundation. The Tinmouth Historical & Genealogical Society is overseeing the project.

Members discussed the proposed meeting for the folks requesting use of town roads for ATV’s and Side by Side vehicles. Michael expressed reservations about the proposal and noise pollution. Members set a date of Saturday, June 20th at 1:00, at the Old Fire House, hoping that having it on a weekend will allow more people to attend. *(This was later postponed - changed to July 6th.)*

Ronnie advised that Fuller Sand & Gravel had completed summer paving, only needed to add gravel to the road shoulders.

Board voted to enter Exec. Session to discuss litigation with the Town’s attorney at 7:00. Members of the Planning Commission (present and on zoom) were invited to join, others on zoom were asked to leave – which they did. Andrew Cliburn, Esq. attended via zoom.

Board exited Executive Session at 7:30. No action taken.

Select Board (SB) ~ 06/11/26 (Regular)

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

Others present: In-person: Ronnie Crossman- Acting Road Commissioner, Eric Buffum (recuperating RC), Darren Babin, Jamo Babin, and Gail Fallar (SBA) and via Zoom – Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Rick Fallar

ATV ~ Darren Babin thanked the Board for changing the meeting set for the 20th, and noted that many folks spend weekends this time of year out and about and would appreciate the Board holding the meeting on a week night. Board decided to hold a special meeting on Monday, July 6th at 6:30 at the old fire house. Darren also noted that those in favor are working on forming an ATV/Side by Side club – called the Tinmouth Trailblazers.

Highway ~

Ronnie noted that he and Glenn have been busy crack sealing on Route 140, East Road, and Mountain View Road, as well as filling pot holes, spot grading, maintenance, etc. Roadside mowing will start soon. He had to take the 2019 – black truck, to Hoosick Falls for repairs to the air valve.

Stormwater Permit Amendment ~ Otter Creek Engineering’s quote was \$15K, so the Board decided the project had to go out to bid per Purchasing Guidelines. Board also decided to add possible relocating the transfer station solid waste dumpster to the project.

Compactor for Transfer Station ~ Board decided to have the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee consider compactors for the Transfer Station – for trash and maybe cardboard.

Generator ~ All set at the town garage, TFVD needs to bring down the generator.

FY26 Financial Report - 5/31/26 was reviewed and approved.

Eric advised that there was a special sale at Home Depot on cordless chainsaws (would eliminate the smell of gas in the trucks with regular ones) that included a charger and extra batteries – about \$1,300. After brief discussion, Board voted to authorize Kevin to investigate and purchase two saws and batteries with the town’s debit card.

Tower Legal Funding ~ Board authorized the SBA to approach original donor for additional funding.

FY27 Salary and Wage Schedule ~ Board reviewed draft, made a couple of edits, and then voted to approve as edited, 3% raise for FY27.

Board approved paying Alex Eaton \$25 per hour for flagging for the road crew during crack sealing.

Old Business ~

605 Mountain View Road – Kevin as Health Officer, advised that someone from the state had stopped by the property and advised the state would help. Board needs name of this person. Owners are no longer willing to have the Town clean it up.

Board Appointment Guidance ~ Judy will work on Sherry's concerns regarding a Select Board member being Chair of another committee – may be the best choice. Board will review again in July.

New Business ~

After brief discussion, Board voted to ratify Kevin's action signing the Rutland Regional Planning Commission's **Mutual Aide agreement**. Board also added Ronnie as an Alternate contact person.

Late Filed Homestead Declaration ~ Following past practice, Board voted to waive late fees for late file homestead declarations.

County Sheriff's FY 27 Contract ~ Board reviewed, had a couple of questions. SBA will contact.

Mail/Correspondence: SBA advised that the **transfer station had been inspected** by the State. Letter laid out steps to take, will give to Transfer Station manager, Chris Martone to address, authorized SBA to respond.

Road Inventory – RRPC has been conducting a road and culvert inventory. Per grant requirements, the Town can do some of it as in-kind work, or pay cash. As it will only cost about \$1K, the Board agreed to have RRPC do all the work – all data collected will be consistent. Reports will help with stormwater projects and meeting stormwater work deadlines.

Executive Session – Board entered Executive Session to discuss personnel issues at 8:18, exited at 8:52. No action taken.

Planning Commission ~ 5/21/26 Regular Meeting –
(following Special Meeting with the Select Board)

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

Others: present in-person: Gail Fallar Secretary

The Planning Commission met from 7:00 -7:30 in Executive Session with the Select Board to consult with the Town's attorney regarding litigation. No action was taken when all exited.

Michael called the PC meeting to order at 7:30 and welcomed all.

Members reviewed the agenda – Vito, as a ZBA member, requested the PC discuss the Agricultural District as the Zoning Board of Adjustment had some difficulty with a recent application for a conditional use permit to build a house in that district.

EEP Update ~ Sean Beatty from RRPC will attend the June 18th meeting with the latest version of the Enhanced Energy Plan (EEP).

Vacancy – Joe Buffum decided to step down from the PC. Need to post the vacancy notice to allow time for interested folks to attend the June meeting for an interview.

Ag Zone discussion – some members of the ZBA (Zoning Board of Adjustment) feel the regulations need more teeth in regards to the Ag Zone/District. They would like to help guide the planning commission and participate in any discussions or review of current rules. Some PC members felt it would help if more than two PC members were on the ZBA – currently Vito and Michael serve on the ZBA, or at least the PC and ZBA should have discussions about planning and zoning in general.

Members expressed concern with keeping agricultural land for ag use, not being developed, and the need for help writing those regulations.

Planning Commission ~ 6/18/26 Regular Meeting –

Members present in-person: Michael Fallar, Ann Lundquist, Andy Gilmore, and Larry Carabeau

Members present via Zoom: Kim Harbaugh, Vito Macaluso, and Pat Psholka

Others: present in-person: Sean Beatty (RRPC), David Levant, and Gail Fallar Secretary and via Zoom: Sherry Johnson

Minutes of 5/21/26 were postponed as the Secretary had missed a page of notes! *Oops!!*

EEP Update ~ Sean Beatty, Planner from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, reviewed the latest version (5) of the Enhanced Energy Plan (EEP) with changes he had made required by statute. Members requested the Scenic Resources section of the current Town Plan's Energy Section be included. Members also suggested the maps could be better interpreted if the words and maps that were on one page be separated onto two pages. Members discussed constraints, how they were shown on the maps, how to protect the Ag District contained in the zoning regulations, as well as lack of confidence in the data provided by the state – turns out many other towns and RPC planners statewide share that concern.

PC Vacancy – David advised he was interested in joining the PC, would like to bring his skills to help. Brief discussion, members voted to recommend to the Select Board that David be appointed to fill the vacancy – term expires 2028. No one else had expressed an interest at this time.

After the meeting adjourned members and guests feasted on delicious homemade strawberry shortcake provided by Cris and Larry Carabeau!!

Tinmouth Conservation Commission ~ 06/15/26

With thanks to Robbie Leeds, Sec.

Present: Ed Hasenohr, Robbie Leeds, Doug Fontein, Doug Inkley (Remote), Colleen Balch (Remote)
Community Member: Gail Fallar

Doug Fontein met with Charles Cherington and his wife Ashley Pettus. They talked and walked the trail that Doug

would like to make public to the community. Stiles were added to the trail in order to go over some fencing and some of the area was brush hogged. Charles wants it to be foot traffic only there is another area that Charles allows motorized vehicles.

Next steps for the trail and clearing saplings, making a culvert and/or bridge but that would need to be cleared with the Select Board. Ed plans on going to the next Select Board meeting. There may be some leftover materials after Ridge trail bog bridges work is complete.

This trail is a 3-mile loop that has some gentle elevation change and is an “easy to moderate” trail. There is a slight pull out on Wrights Road for parking 2-3 cars.

Green-Up day went well; weather wasn't the best. The turnout was like last year. Roughly 30 of 35 miles of Tinnmouth roads were cleaned up. Robbie will get more prizes and other materials needed for next year. We need to investigate the “trash dump” location to see if anything needs to be pulled out.

Colleen reported she got two positive responses about invasives but nothing else. Discussion continued about invasive species including what options are for clearing plants out and how much labor it would take. Next steps will be Doug Inkley and Colleen researching and planning invasive eradication work in Tinnmouth.

Next topic was trail maintenance. Ridge Trail bog bridges need work and Doug purchased materials for the work (\$557). Members authorized reimbursing Doug for the materials. The planned workday for the Ridge Trail is July 21st at 8 am. Loop Trail workday is Thursday the 23rd at 8 am.

Everyone needs to try to recruit new members, there are two vacancies currently.

Web Site Committee ~ 04/30/26

With thanks to Jennifer Trepal, Secretary

Members present: Melody Squier, Trish Warfle, Nancy Gucker Birdsall and via Zoom: Gail Fallar, Jennifer Trepal, and Cathy Reynolds

Melody reported that the Select Board approved moving forward with the basic website offered by Town Web for \$1,200/year for 5 years. If we want to spend more to add other features, we can return to the board.

Jennifer explained her review of the current web site and draft content for the new site. Members discussed how to proceed with the draft and agreed that Nancy, Cathy, and Jennifer would continue work on the draft for presentation to the Committee at the next meeting.

Nancy wanted to confirm that we can link to external sites so we can continue to use the reservation calendar for rental of town venues. A quick look at Middletown shows we can link to external sites.

Members reviewed some proposals for the design of the new site. Muted colors were preferred.

A draft of the website hierarchy was discussed, with some changes recommended. One-click access is desired whenever possible. We don't want users to have to wade through a lot of verbiage to find things.

Gail reported that the Historical Society asked if they could have pictures on the site. Consensus was “yes,” with limits.

Use of a logo was discussed. Members agreed to see what Town Web comes up with for their free version. Using a version of the new welcome to the town sign was also suggested. Possibly including Tinnmouth Channel in the design was also mentioned.

Web Site Committee ~ 05/28/26

*With thanks to Nancy Gucker Birdsall and
Jennifer Trepal, Secretary*

Members present: Melody Squier, Gail Fallar, Jennifer Trepal, Nancy Gucker Birdsall, and Cathy Reynolds.

Jennifer shared the mock-up of the website design – both the home page and a sample inside page. She also shared the hierarchy for the website menu. These, plus the extensively updated website content were discussed with TownWeb at a small-group discussion on May 27. Jennifer will send all documents to TownWeb on May 29 for them to begin putting it all together for the website. Jennifer will also send copies to the Committee.

Members discussed the possibility of including a logo on the site. Ideas will be presented to Town Web.

The Committee discussed coming up with standards at a future meeting - for posting on the website, for naming documents and photos, and with a plan for future editing – to establish a goal of consistency and with hopes of keeping the website current.

It was suggested that the event application used for booking the Community Center, Old Firehouse, and other venues in town needs to be updated to include the setup and cleanup times and the event time, so that only the event time is posted on the website calendar for public events.

The Committee discussed how and what to include for the Town Contact page. The Committee will check with members of other committees to see if they would like to use a “universal” committee email address, or their personal contact information.

The Committee agreed to recommend Nikki Pfeiffer to the Select Board for appointment to the Website Committee.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 24 at 11:00 am in the Town Office or Library, to meet with TownWeb for their “reveal” of the new website.



Equity and Inclusion Committee ~ 05/28/26

With thanks to Alyssa Adler, Sec.

Present were members: via Zoom: Kim Harbaugh and Sherry Johnson and In person: Melody Squier, Alyssa Adler, and Ellie Ewing, as well as Gail Fallar - other.

Tinmouth Fun Day - Fun Day will take place on Saturday July 11th in the town center. Fun Day will begin with our parade per usual, however following this the Tinmouth Historical Society will be dedicating a flag pole for our 250th anniversary. Melody reports that the *Electrostatic Cats* will be back again to serenade us. The Fire Department will be taking care of water activities and the Recreation Committee will be tackling other games. Sherry will be running the ice cream station and in charge of hot dogs and chips for the potluck in the early evening. Melody brought up the craft sharing event that will be ongoing in the community center as well - people's crafted items will be displayed around the room.

Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) has resources for Equity & Inclusivity Committees - Ellie has begun one training on this website and reports the information seems relevant to our committee. She also noted that neighboring E&I Committees are taking training from this website too. Recommends other members to peruse the site.

Welcome signs - Melody shared that Rainbow submitted her sign design for quotes from a sign maker in Manchester and one in Rutland.

Other business - Melody reported she recently learned about a new program in Vermont focusing on supporting elders who are aging in place, will look more into what exactly is being offered. Alyssa discussed the program Seniors Helping Seniors recently opened a new office in Rutland to support aging in place as well as in-home services available with Bayada (also out of Rutland).

Ellie began a discussion about Internet accessibility for all. Alyssa reported VTEL refers folks through an application process to get approved for income-based Internet.

The next E&I committee meeting is for July 30th.

Zoning Board of Adjustment ~ 06/22/26

Members present: Vito Macaluso, David Levant, Ed Hasenohr, and Michael Fallar and via Zoom: Tracy Byford and Sherry Johnson

Also present: Gail Fallar – Zoning Administrator and Kim Harbaugh via zoom.

Ed called the meeting to order at 7:05 and noted that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible changes for the conditional use permit process and/or make recommendations to the Planning Commission regarding the Agricultural Overlay District.

Members discussed a recent ZBA hearing for a house in the Ag Overlay – there needed to be more and better

information presented to the Board before a hearing was called. Map(s) needs to show topography, and needs to be accurate and to scale. Rules state that 8 copies have to be presented by the applicant. Board wants paper copies, not just scanned and emailed. Board also wants information from the applicant 5 business days ahead of any hearing.

Members discussed whether they could question evidence presented, engineer said site would be fine – but once digging began it was clear there was a problem with rocks and ledge.

Members discussed aesthetics and what authority the ZBA had to address that with an application. The Town does not have a design review board – which could determine color, construction type, landscape screening, etc. The Ag Overlay exists for a reason, to protect future farm land, and it's the ZBA's job to make sure any houses to be located in it do so in the most less intrusive way. Location can be determined. It was noted that a house could be built on the woods out of the Ad Overlay and the ZBA would have no say in its location.

Possible changes – set a distance of intrusion into the Ag Overlay – like 75 feet; amend the definition of the Ag Overlay to clarify what is to be protected; how to be reasonable and still preserve natural culture.

Next steps – David will work on a checklist for applicants to provide guidance on what the ZBA requires - clarify that - a shed in the Ag Zone would be treated different than a house - that waiver of the rules needed to be requested by the applicant (not all apply to every situation) – suggest 5 day rule to the PC and Select Board - ZBA members need to be aware of the town plan and zoning regulations.

Gail, as ZA, advised a new owner of a house on White Birch Drive would like to build a garage, but would need a setback waiver – members noted a site visit would be needed.

~ Nature Notes ~

Bear Alert –There are MANY reports of bears being seen all over town.

Martha Stanley reported a Momma (sow) and 3 cubs on Mountain View Road and **Dave McLellan** reported a sow and 3 cubs at Tinmouth Pond!

Don't walk or jog alone!!

~ 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 local 911 address.

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

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Friday, July 10 (10 - 4) and

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designated library projects. www.rutlandfree.org

~ **Legislative Update** ~

By Rep. Chris Pritchard

In this Legislative update I wanted to start with an update on the ongoing Education transformation. At the end of the biennium the House accepted the Conference of Committee report recommendations. District merger groups will be formed at the local level and the groups are defined within the report. The report touches on the next steps in the Education transformation process. I have included the link to the 16 page report.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/H.-955-Committee-Report.pdf>

The following bills were bills that I supported that have become law. If you click on the bill it will provide all the bill information, committee and floor action.

[S.325](#) , [H.739](#) , [H.536](#) , [S.89](#) , [S.51](#) , [H.778](#) , S.64 [As Enacted \(ACT 171\)](#) ,

I will share some more bills that have become law in the next update with a summary and links that will provide the bill and the information and action taken as I have done here. Please reach out to me with any questions you may have I am more than happy to try to answer them for you. My email is cpritchard@leg.state.vt.us

Wishing everyone a Very Happy 4th.

Chris

***Editor's Note:** Rep. Pritchard submitted a much longer report which included information about **H.527** – the bill dealing with siting telecommunication towers. Please reach out to him or Tales and we will provide more details.*

Wanted: A painter(s) – the Town Office is in need of scraping, priming and painting on the exterior.
Please inquire for details at 802-446-2498 or email finmouthtown@vermontel.net.



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I'm Still Looking for Marbles!!

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Thank you to those who dropped some off
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Please watch Front Porch Forum for details or call
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Office@northernoutdoorfurnaces.com

~ July 2026 Calendar of Events ~

Story Hour	Wednesday	1 st	11:00	Library
Fire Department	Thursday	2 nd	7:00	Fire House
Town Office – CLOSED	Saturday	4 th	Happy 4 th !!	
Transfer Station – OPEN	Saturday	4 th	8:00 – Noon	Transfer Station
Select Board - Special ATV	Monday	6 th	6:30	Old Fire House/Virtual
Story Hour	Wednesday	8 th	11:00	Library
Select Board -Regular	Thursday	9 th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
Town Fun Day	Saturday	11 th	3:00-7:00	Parade Starts @ 3:00
Recreation Committee	Monday	13 th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
Planning Commission	Thursday	16 th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Monday	20 th		Don't Miss It!
Story Hour	Wednesday	22 nd	11:00	Library
Story Hour	Wednesday	29 th	11:00	Library
E & I Committee	Thursday	30 th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual

~ August 2026 Calendar of Events ~

Fire Department	Thursday	6 th	7:00	Fire House
250 Trivia Night	Friday	7 th	6:30	Old Fire House
Select Board	Thursday	13 th	7:00	Town Office/Virtual
Conservation Commission	Monday	17 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!

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 2:30-4:30 PM ~ And the first Saturday of the month, 10 - noon.*

Knit/Craft Club ~ Mondays ~ 1:00-3:00 at the Pavilion for the summer ~ All Welcome!

Special Select Board
Meeting
Regarding a Proposed
ATV – Ordinance to
allow ATVs on Town
Roads.
Monday, July 6th
Old Fire House 6:30

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