

TALES OF TINMOUTH

January 2016
Vol. 30 Number 1

Tinmouth
Vermont



Editor's Note: May your New Year be filled with Health and Happiness!! Pray for Peace. . .

Please send news, ads, and items of interest to tinmouthtales@vermontel.net. The deadline is the 20th of the preceding month. Gail Fallar, Editor, 515 North End Rd, Tinmouth, VT 05773

~ **Public Forum on the Proposed Act 46 Merger** ~
Wednesday, January 20th 7:00 PM
Tinmouth Community Center
by Grant Reynolds

The Rutland South Study Committee will hold a public forum in the Community Center at 7 PM on January 20. Dave Younce, Rutland South Supervisory Union superintendent, will open the program with a presentation on the plan for merging the five Rutland South School Districts into a Unified Union District under Act 153 of 2010. The floor will be open for questions and comments. The five districts are Tinmouth, Wallingford, Clarendon, Shrewsbury and Mill River Union #40.

The plan is to merge the school districts, creating a larger district with one school board and one budget. It does not affect the operation of schools, and **it has a legally binding guarantee that Tinmouth School cannot be closed unless the town votes to do so.**

This forum is one of six being held by the Study Committee, which produced the plan for school district merger and secured its approval by the State Board of Education.

Tinmouth, Wallingford, Shrewsbury and Clarendon will all vote on the proposal by Australian ballot on March 1. If you have questions about the forum, call Grant Reynolds - Tinmouth's Study Committee member, at 446-3457.

~ **Special Town and School Meetings Results** ~

On Saturday, **December 5th**, 60 plus folks met at the Community Center and as school district voters unanimously approved the transfer of the school buildings to the town (they are located on the Town Green and may already be town buildings – this clarifies ownership) and transfers from the School Tax Stabilization Fund to cover an anticipated FY16 deficit and to the Town for a special endowed fund to cover maintenance of the Community Center and School if they are ever not used for educational purposes, and as town voters, accepted them for the town.

On Tuesday, **December 8th**, 142 voters stopped by the Community Center to cast ballots (or voted absentee) regarding the proposed purchase of the Parker property on Tinmouth Pond. There were 47 yes votes and **95 no** votes, so the proposal as presented was defeated.

~ **Town Meeting 2016** ~

Town Meeting is **Saturday, February 27th** this year. Town and School public questions and budgets will be voted from the floor at the Community Center starting at 1:00 PM. Australian balloting **Tuesday, March 1st** will include the election of town and school officers; a special vote regarding merging the school district; a proposed amendment to Tinmouth's Zoning Regulations regarding setbacks and screening for commercial solar projects; and the Presidential Primary.

There will be a change in voting hours on March 1st – polls will not open until 10:00 AM – this is due to the special school vote – per state statute for this proposal, all towns must be open the same time and as Shrewsbury, Clarendon and Wallingford don't open until 10:00, Tinmouth must also. Thank-you for your cooperation and understanding. You may cast an early/absentee ballot for any voting that takes place on March 1st.

Thinking about serving your community? Town Meeting will find voters choosing the following officers:

2016 Officers to be elected:

Moderator - Town & School - 1 year term

School Director - 3 year term

Select Board Member - 3 year term

Road Commissioner – 2 year term (filling out remainder of a 3 year term)

Lister - 3 year term

Lister – 2 year term (filling out remainder of a 3 year term)

Auditor - 3 year term

Auditor - 1 year term (filling out remainder of a 3 year term)

2nd Constable - 2 year term (vacant)

Town Agent - 1 yr term Grand Juror - 1 yr term

Tax Collector (Delinquent) - 1 year term

And a School Director for a 3 year term for the new White Rocks Unified School District (if the vote by all four towns approves the merger/consolidation).

If you wish to run for office, you must file a petition with the town clerk with **five** voter's signatures by 5:00 PM Monday, **January 25th**. Petitions are available at the town office. Candidates must also sign a consent form.

Petitions for Articles to be placed on the warning are due by 5:00 pm **Thursday, January 14th**. 5% of voters (20) must sign the petition. Voters must be registered to vote in Tinmouth.



January 2016 Calendar of Events

Fire Dept	Thursday	7 th	7:00	Fire House
School Board	Wednesday	13 th	7:00	School
Select Board	Thursday	14 th	7:00	Town Office
Contra Dance	Friday	15 th	8:00	Community Center
Article Petitions Due	Thursday	14 th	5:00	Town Office
Act 46 Study Comm. Informational Meeting	Wednesday	20 th	7:00	Community Center
THGS	Sunday	24 th	2:00	Town Office
Officer Petitions Due	Monday	25 th	5:00	Town Office
Planning Commission	Monday	25 th	7:30	Town Office



February 2016 Calendar of Events

Fire Dept	Thursday	4 th	7:00	Fire House
School Board	Wednesday	10 th	7:00	School
Select Board	Thursday	11 th	7:00	Town Office
TCF Grants Due	Friday	12 th	5:00	Town Office
Conservation Comm	Monday	15 th	7:00	Town Office
Contra Dance	Friday	19 th	8:00	Community Center
THGS	Sunday	28 th	2:00	Town Office
Planning Commission	Monday	22 nd	7:00	Town Office
Last Day to Register to Vote	Wednesday	24 th	3:00-5:00	Town Office
Town Meeting	Saturday	27 th	1:00	Community Center
Australian Voting*	Tuesday	March 1 st	10 am – 7 pm	Community Center

* Includes election of officers, Presidential Primary, Zoning Regulation Amendment and the School Merger

Sunday Church Service 9:00 AM ~ *All are welcome!*

Transfer Station hours are Wednesday 4:00 - 7:00 pm & Saturday 8:00 am - noon.

Library Hours ~ Monday 9:30-noon & 1-5 and Thursday 9:30-noon

Fun "non-competitive" Volleyball on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm.

Kripalu Yoga, Thursdays 5:30-7:00 pm \$10 per class Bess Lewis, Instructor, Community Center

Exercise Class, Monday 5:30 pm - \$6 per class - Annie Robbins, Instructor, Community Center

WARNING: ALWAYS put ashes removed from a stove, fireplace or furnace in a METAL bucket. Never use a paper or plastic bag or pail. And please don't leave it on the back porch, take it out onto the lawn to cool down.
Embers can retain their heat for quite some time.

Simply Fitness
 Group Classes and Personal Training
 Specializing in workouts for women
Anne Robbins
 Ace Certified Personal Trainer
 anne.h.robbins@att.net
 802-446-2343
 Visit my Facebook page for information and class schedules
 24 hour cancellation policy for personal training



~ Tinmouth Community Fund Grants ~

The Tinmouth Community Fund (TCF)'s annual grant cycle is beginning. You can pick up grant applications at the Town Office or download them from the town's website - tinmouthvt.org. They need to be completed and returned to the Town Office by February 12, 2016.

We are looking for new ideas to fulfill TCF's purpose. That purpose being; **"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."**

To give you a sense of the type of projects that might be funded think in terms of the following activity areas. Historical, cultural, arts, recreation, social services, education, health, conservation, environmental, aesthetic, and community development. If you have a project that fits in any of these areas pick up a grant application.

Might it be computer classes for elders, or Thanksgiving dinners for shut-ins or singles either at home or the community center, or a movie series at the Old Firehouse? Use your own imagination, take some action, ask for more participation by citizens in making Tinmouth a better place to live.

Please give it a try.

Grant awards will be announced at the Tinmouth Community Fund's Annual Meeting on February 27th.

Cathy Reynolds, Chair

~ 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.

Meeting notices and agendas are posted there!

~ Hook-In ~

by Shirley Bucceri

There will be a "Hook-In" at the Tinmouth Community Center on **Saturday, February 6, 2016** from 9:00 to 3:00 or 4:00. This event was started by the late Patty Yoder, an outstanding rug hooker and continued by the late Susan Mackey, also excellent in this craft. Everyone is welcome - - hooking, knitting or any fiber craft.

Or, if you'd like to learn more about rug hooking there will be many present that would love to share and/or show you how it's done. Bring a lunch and if you'd like a "goodie" to share. Coffee, tea and water supplied by the GMRHG (Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild).

Any questions, please call Shirley @802-235-3434.

~ Library News ~

By Ruth Drachman, Librarian

Happy New Year to All!!!

We have NEW books for the New Year!

New for Adults:

We have the newest books by Archer Mayor, Geraldine Brooks, Howard Frank Mosher, Alexander McCall Smith, Kate Morton, and Elizabeth George

New books on CD are many. Among them are:

Death of a Liar by M.C. Beaton

The Wright Brothers by David McCullough

The Silkworm by Robert Galbraith

Mrs. Sinclair's Suitcase by Louise Walters

The Nature of the Beast by Louise Penny

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel DeFoe

Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee

Come check us out!

We are open Monday and Thursdays 9:30 A.M. until Noon, and 1:00 P. M. until 5:00 P. M.

~ *Who's running and who's not as Tales goes to print* ~

Hollis Squier, Road Commissioner, retired as of December 31st, so there are two years left in his term. **Eric Buffum** and **Kevin Ruane** are vying for the position.

Stan Wilbur is running for re-election as town and school moderator.

Tim Lonergan has decided to not run for re-election as a Lister. So there are two open seats – one for three years and one for two years (Nancy Birdsall resigned).

There are two open seats for Auditor – one is currently vacant - a three year term, (from which Kate Kruesi resigned) and one for one year (Iris Klinger resigned), both having moved.

Cat Yoder is running for re-election as Delinquent Tax Collector.

Gregg Casey is running for re-election to the Select Board, **Amanda Gill** and **Frank Sears** have also taken out petitions for that position.

More details in February *Tales*, all candidates will be asked to submit why they are interested in running.

~ THGS ~

The Tinmouth Historical and Genealogical Society will meet on **Sunday, January 24th** at the town office to continue archiving work - sorting photos, papers and ephemera at the town office – and working on a cataloging system.

2:00 ~ refreshments provided.

All are welcome.

If you have some old photos you would be willing to share, please bring them along. We would like to scan them. They will be promptly returned.

Dear Friends,

This is the season when many of us think to ourselves, “now, what are my intentions for this new year?” We make resolutions, usually having to do with diet or exercise, and carry them out with varying degrees of success. The people who study these things claim that it takes 66 days for a practice to become a reliably adopted habit. So, if we can just get through the first three months, then we are well on our way!

Some old-fashioned religious terms have been working on me as I think about what my intentions will be for 2016. The words are “mercy” and “grace”. Life these days tends to be so contentious, that many of us have built up thick protective walls to our hearts. We are on the defensive, on high alert, looking for any transgressions that might cause us harm or pain.

Mercy and grace stand in stark contrast to a closed-off and carefully protected heart. They coax and invite us to consider a different way of being in relationship with others. They ask us to embrace and embody a softer and gentler way of being in the world. *In a recent lecture, Richard Rohr, a Franciscan monk and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation, spoke about the freedom we give to ourselves when we let go of the need to always be right, to always do exactly and only the right thing. He invited his listeners to consider that being loving was a higher value than being right.*

This sounds to me like a worthy New Year’s resolution, to choose to be loving rather than focusing my energies on always attempting to be right. I like the freedom inherent in letting go of the need to judge every situation. I look forward to seeking out ways to express my love and appreciation without the need to assess the rightness or wrongness of a person or of their choices. I appreciate the challenge of breathing new life into seemingly old-fashioned concepts like mercy and grace, so that they can gain credibility in a world that has become way too contentious.

I don’t think my resolution is going to be easy to keep. In fact, a diet or exercise program might be a whole lot simpler, but I feel the need to stand in opposition to the violence that permeates so much of our lives today, and this seems like a powerful way to do it. Even if it doesn’t make a dent “out there” in the world, I have a suspicion it will make a big difference “in here” in my heart and in my life.

*May grace and mercy be with you in this New Year,
Shirley*



Get Well Wishes are sent to **Courtney Carmen, Joanne Holler, Jim Barrett, Geanine White, Jeff Tyminski, Ann Colvin, Art Psholka, David Birdsall, and all cold and flu sufferers.**

Heartfelt Sympathies are sent to **Marie Regimbald** for the loss of her father; and to family and friends of **Hadwin Young** – brother of Truman Jr. and a great photographer.

There were more than two dozen carolers out and about just before Christmas. Voices were well tuned, very harmonious and wonderful to listen to and sing along with. What a lovely on-going tradition we have created!!

The Christmas Eve Service at the Tinmouth Community Church was splendid! There were choral singers, bell ringers, violin players, pianist and organist, and magic as *Silent Night* was sung by those holding candles encircling the pews. Thank-you to all who participated and were involved in this wonderful celebration of Christ’s birth.

Many thanks are sent to **George Herrick, III**, who had a bumper crop of apples this fall, and kept bringing them to the town office. Many, many bushels of apples were shared with everyone who came to the office or happened to stop by and fill a bag or two. Perhaps we should re-name his ‘Georgie Apple Seed’?

And speaking of apples, there are folks who are still trying to locate the “Tinmouth Apple”. Have you checked it out on the web? Check out “The Week” a couple of months ago.

~ Christmas Baskets ~

Community folks and the Roy & Anne Wilbur Fund gathered food and donations and for provided for 22 Tinmouth families for the holidays. The donations of food, money, toys and games, sorting, packing, shopping, wrapping, more sorting and packing, and delivery were very much appreciated by those families. Thomas Dairy donated milk and eggs to our efforts as well!

Many thanks to **all** who helped, baked goodies (cookies, bread and sticky buns), shopped, sorted, packed boxes, delivered, etc. **and** for the food drive organized by the Wallingford Rescue Squad and another by the Tinmouth Elementary School. The food shelf at the Town Office has been re-stocked as well, thanks to those efforts. If you need a bit of help with food, please stop in! Or if you can spare non-perishables (pasta, tuna, laundry detergent, etc.) please drop them off.

There were also 15 fruit baskets created and delivered by a number of “elves”. They were all most appreciated.

Many thanks to all the elves! Many hands make light work!

~ Proposed School District Merger Will Reduce
2016-17 School Tax Rate ~

By Grant Reynolds

The State Board of Education approved the merger of the school districts in Rutland South Supervisory Union on December 5. Now it goes to the voters of the four towns, Clarendon, Shrewsbury, Tinmouth, and Wallingford. This is a merger of school boards, not of schools. **We have a legally binding guarantee that Tinmouth Elementary School cannot be closed unless approved unanimously by the Union Board, including Tinmouth's representative, and by the voters of the Town of Tinmouth.**

If the merger passes, your taxes will go down. The present estimate is that the tax rate will drop from \$1.33 per \$100 of assessed value in 2016, after applying the Common Level of Appraisal, to \$1.26 in 2017 (the budget at Town Meeting on February 27).

If the school district merger fails to pass, either because Tinmouth or another town votes it down, then our tax rate will rise from \$1.33 in 2016 to \$1.53¹ for 2017.

That's the bottom line. While I will try to explain it, you don't have to read any more if figures make your head spin as they do mine. But they are important numbers, and I encourage you to stick with me.

5

Unless amended by this year's Legislature, Act 46 placed a cap on increases in Educational Cost per student. Our cap is 1.57%, about \$18,000. Any additional expenditures in this budget above that are double taxed - a dollar is taxed as if we had spent \$2. Our cap tax is about 14 cents per \$100. The merged district will not have a cap tax, and will have tax rates reduced by 8 cents the first year and 6-4-2 cents the next three years. These are figured into the tax rates above. If the Legislature repeals the cap completely, the tax rate with the merger would be \$1.26; without the merger it would be \$1.41. Your tax rate would be still be 15 cents less if the merger is approved. This gives you an idea how costly the so-called "cap" is.

Educational Cost is the Budget approved by Town Meeting less "local revenues"; items such as tuition from Ira students, state/Federal support of Special Education, transportation, intervention teacher, and school lunches. Ironically, our expenditure budget is actually down by 2.3% (\$36,729), but so is the amount of "local income"

¹ These numbers are the result of dividing the tax rate by 118.73%, the Common Level of Appraisal. If the town reassesses property so that the CLA is 1.00, then the rate in the event of a merger will be \$1.49, and without a merger will be \$1.82. These rates will be applied to lower home values, so the amount you pay would be the same as if the CLA of 1.18 had been applied to them.

and the state-calculated number of students. As a result our Educational Cost is higher, and it's divided by a smaller number of students to reach "Educational Cost Per Student" on which the cap is based. A second irony: our number of students for next year will actually be higher than this year, due to a large 4 year old class entering kindergarten, but the cap is based on this year's number of PreK-12 students.

We are going to be over the capped amount by some \$49,000, due to uncontrollable occurrences such as fewer tuition students from Ira, replacement of a new teacher with a veteran teacher, more expense in the school lunch program, and hiring a para-educator to work with the very large PreK class. We will have two choices to deal with the cap, if we are not part of a merged district:

- raise taxes about 20 cents per \$100, to \$1.53, to cover the increased spending and the penalty for exceeding the cap, or

-taking \$92,000 out of the Tax Stabilization Fund.

If there's no cap, due to the merger or legislative action, there's no \$92,000 withdrawal from the Tax Stabilization Fund. The School District will pass the Fund on to the town, per the December Special Town Meeting. The Town will use 75% of it to create an endowed fund to maintain the Community Center and School Building if it is ever not used for educational purposes. 25% will go to the Tinmouth Community Scholarship Fund. It provides scholarships for post-high school education and for summer camps and similar functions that a Tinmouth child's family is unable to afford.

The School Budget warned for Town Meeting will be the merger budget, with a reduction in taxes. If the merger fails, the cap will apply. The budget will have to be amended by withdrawal from the Tax Stabilization Fund, or raising the tax rate, or a combination of both.

~ Nature Notes ~

So what a Fall we enjoyed!! Winter didn't even arrive on December 21st, in fact there were folks running around barefoot outside on Christmas day!! Garlic was planted on the 26th; dandelions, pansies, and Johnny jump-ups were shouting 'hello'; temperatures were in the 60's on Christmas day, folks dug the last carrots from the garden soon after, and then the temps descended to more normal readings - 18 degrees on the 28th. As this is being written on January 3rd, temps are about to sink to ZERO!!

While for those who really like winter sports this has been a dismal start to winter, there are others who are cheering for each day closer to Spring that they don't have to endure zero or below on the thermometer or shovel snow.

Fast forward to January 10th, thunder and lightning, fierce winds, and hail descended upon us!! Temp in the 40s!! Some folks even saw a rainbow that day!



Winter Time Contra Dance in Tinmouth

**Cedar Stanistreet on fiddle and Marko Packard guitar
Peter Stix Calling**

**Friday, January 15, 2015 at 8:00
Tinmouth Community Center, 575 Route 140**

TINMOUTH. The Tinmouth Wintertime Contra Dance will take place on Friday January 15 from 8-11 with music by Cedar Stanistreet on fiddle and Marko Packard on guitar. Peter Stix will be the caller. All dances are taught, and you do not need a partner. If you are a beginner, come at 8:00 for a beginner's walk through. There will be live music, enthusiastic swinging and dancing and a fun night for all.

The dance takes place in the Tinmouth Community Center on the third Friday of most months. The Community Center is on Rte 140 in the center of Tinmouth, Vermont 5 miles west of Wallingford. Please bring clean, non-marring shoes. Admission is \$9, \$7 for teens and free for children 12 and under. Refreshments will be available to benefit the dance fund. Call 235-2718 or 446-2928 for info or directions or www.Tinmouthvt.org.

Like us on Facebook and mark your calendar for our upcoming dances ~

- * Nova with Will Mentor calling **February 19**
- * Randy Miller on fiddle and Roger Kahle on guitar, awesome caller tba on **March 18**
- * Kelsey Wells on fiddle and Brendan Taaffe on guitar, awesome caller tba on **April 15**
- * Mark and Silas Hamilton on fiddle and bass, Licia Gambino-Hamilton calling on **May 20**

Shine up those dancing shoes and bring a couple of friends to dance with!

Free Ice Fishing Day is held annually on the last Saturday in January, this year that is January 30th!!

While the day is geared towards people who are new to ice fishing, giving them a chance to give it a try without having to buy a license, any angler may ice fish on any water body statewide without a fishing license.

~ Legislative Contact Info ~

The Vermont General Assembly is back in session. 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 email addresses below.

Rep. David Potter: 438-5385, or 642 East Tinmouth Rd, West Rutland, VT 05777 or email dpotter@leg.state.vt.us.

Rep. Tom Burditt: tburditt@leg.state.vt.us

Rep. Robin Chesnut-Tangerman:

rchesnut-tangerman@leg.state.vt.us

Sen. Peg Flory: pflory@leg.state.vt.us

Sen. Kevin Mullin: kjmbjm@aol.com

Sen. Brian Collamore: bcollamore@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.

Your input can be important in their decision making.

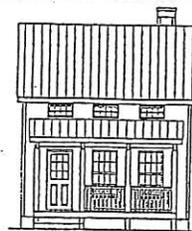
Everyone Is Welcome in This
Community of Worship and Faith

TINMOUTH COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday Service – 9:00 a.m.

Rev. Shirley Oskamp, Pastor

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors



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

**S. Cameron Lepley
Construction**

802.446.2900

Meeting Highlights ~ information from unofficial minutes

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

Select Board ~ 12/10/15 ~ Regular Meeting and Hearing Regarding Conveyance of Conservation Restrictions

Present were Board members Matt Patry, Laurie Phillips, and Gregg Casey as well as Hollis Squier, Tim Loneragan, Grant Reynolds, Kevin Ruane, and Gail Fallar.

Board reviewed agenda, added tool replacement under highway business.

Matt read the warning for the hearing regarding the conveyance of the conservation restrictions held by the Town on the property now owned by Tinmouth Properties, LLC on the trail portion of TH20. The conveyance to them will then allow them to convey them to the Vermont Land Trust which holds restrictions on other property of Tinmouth Properties and so VLT will be able to enforce the restrictions for the entire property. The Tinmouth Land Trust is also conveying its rights and will no longer be responsible for enforcement. Board approved the transfer and signed a Certificate of Appointment authorizing Matthew Patry, Board Chair, to sign any necessary paperwork needed for the transfer.

Kevin reported the grader was fixed, needs a spare tire and rim (the spare tire had recently been mounted to replace a damaged tire, but there is no spare rim), replacement cost for the rim is \$725 and \$1000 for a new tire. Board decided to postpone the purchase until after July 1st – the start of the next fiscal year. Board authorized the purchase of a spare tire and rim for the blue tandem – as there are sets summer and winter tires, but the winter tires are slightly bigger and have to be the same. Board authorized spending up to \$400.

Hollis reported that the oil pan replacement was not covered under warranty – that was covered by a five year warranty, other parts of the truck are under a seven year warranty. Board discussed constructing a roof over the diesel fuel tank, do we need another for off road fuel or a larger one? No decision. Kevin requested the Town obtain a charge account at White's Fuel stop for gasoline or diesel fuel in a pinch (Hollis used to pay cash and get reimbursed), Board voted to approve.

Kevin advised the old back hoe is in pretty rough shape, Hollis noted it's not used much, mostly to squish trash in the dumpster.

Laurie reported on the highway department tool replacement process – she's obtained several quotes - for an air compressor and hoses, torch set, tool set packages, tow chains, a welder and chain saws, total is around \$8,000. Board discussed immediate needs, Hollis offered to bring back his welder until the town could purchase one. Board discussed using the Equipment Fund for purchase of tools – Gail advised it was created to replace equipment

like trucks, loaders, graders, etc. Board authorized Laurie to negotiate with the various vendors for tools, the compressor and torches and report back at a special meeting, not to exceed \$5,500 in total.

Kevin noted his step-son Patrick Evans, was willing to sell a used Snap-On tool box to the town for \$600. Board approved the purchase.

Members discussed draft highway budget- should the loader be replaced or repaired, culvert repair for a large culvert on Rte 140 near Gulf Road – Gregg will get an estimate to sleeve it as it is larger than needed – the bands have broke so it is separating. More discussion in January.

Grant, as Chair of the Old Creamery Committee, reported that work continues, the west sill is being replaced so the appearance of the building will be enhanced. The next step is to build the porch (fund raising is needed for that) and then to replace the carrying beam and the sills on the north and south walls. South wall foundation is also in great need of replacement. These also need fund raising efforts. He thanked Gregg and Kevin and Ken Krantz and crew for their work on the east wall. He inquired whether the Board would consider contributing money from the Town's Building and Repair Fund to help with these repairs. Board took the matter under advisement.

At 8:15 Board voted to enter executive session to discuss personnel issues. Tim expressed support for health insurance coverage for the retiring road commissioner, noting it was the right thing to do, and that many folks felt that way as Hollis had spent 30 plus years working for the town and has done an exceptional job. Grant also expressed support for paying retiree health insurance. Board then entered executive session. Hollis asked to speak with them. Present was the Board and Hollis Squier-for a brief time. Board exited executive session at 9:00. Matt reported the Board had talked at length about Hollis's request; they had concerns with setting a precedent and property taxes, but felt something needed to be done for the many years of his service. Board voted to give Hollis a \$3,600 bonus. The request for continued health insurance was denied.

Hollis reported that the VTel line going up Crow Hill Road was not working – has a break in the line, 1000 feet will need to be replaced.

Board discussed and approved holiday bonuses - \$65 each for road crew (Hollis, Ronnie, and Kevin), transfer station crew (Rick, Charlie and Gunner) and town office staff (Gail, Ruth, Ann, and Nancy).

Board set December 17, 2015 for a special meeting to discuss tools and personnel policy changes.

Select Board ~ 12/17/15 – Special Meeting

Present were Board members Laurie Phillips, Gregg Casey, and Matt Patry, as well as Kevin Ruane-Road Foreman, and Gail Fallar-Board Assistant.

Laurie reported that NAPA tools would be on sale after January 1st, but Tractor Supply had a better deal on an air compressor, Air Gas has the best price on torches and they are heavy duty, two year warranty on tools. Board also discussed the need to buy an engraver and mark all town tools, as well as keeping an inventory of them.

Board voted to approve purchase of an air compressor from Tractor Supply to include two air hoses, a water separator, cord and quick connects, not to exceed \$1,300.

Board voted to approve tools purchase from NAPA not to exceed \$3,800, (quote of \$3673 and air engraver estimated at \$100).

Board voted to approve purchase of torch set and bracket from Air Gas for \$556.

Board noted this \$5,655 was a start for now at replacing tools, others will be needed. Hollis had brought his own tools to the job and as the Select Board had chosen not to buy them from him, he took them home. The Town was never charged for the use of them.

Board discussed eye wash station and first aide kit – will discuss at January meeting as Gregg may have access and Laurie will get estimates.

Kevin noted that Noble Ace Hardware has a step ladder that is needed – Board approved its purchase.

Kevin reported that he had changed the filters on the loader and will get an estimate for the January meeting regarding fixing the steering column. Board discussed replacing or repairing the loader - keep another 5 years? It is 17 years old – Kevin will have an oil analysis done.

What to do with the back-hoe - can parts be obtained at a junk yard? He also noted that he had gone through the equipment, changing filters and greasing as needed. Warranty on the orange truck needed to be checked to insure oil pan is replaced before it runs out.

Board discussed and then set January 14, 2016 as a hearing date for a proposed amendment to Tinmouth Zoning Regulations regarding setbacks and screening for commercial solar projects. Voters will consider on March 1st.

Board discussed Personnel Practices – Gregg recommended that it not specify a specific BCBS Plan – instead using “or equivalent”; and that all hiring and firing should have Select Board approval. Board decided that a 3.5% raise was in order – given the minimum wage was increasing and that there were several years that staff did not receive an increase.

Gregg advised that sleeving the culvert on Rte 140 would be in order if paving was imminent, but it might need to be dug up and replaced; a hydraulic study might be needed before deciding what to do.

School Board ~ 12/9/15

Present were Board Members Grant Reynolds and Sarah Graham, as well as David Younce - RSSU Superintendent, Superintendent, Stan Pawlaczyk, RSSU Business

Manager, Carol Geery – RSSU Special Ed Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker-Principal, Kris Kristensen- Special Educator, Jo Reynolds, Gail Fallar – Treasurer and temporary scribe

Grant called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm, reviewed agenda, and moved Carol and Stan closer to the top.

Carol presented information regarding the process for determining an IEP (Individual Education Plan) for special ed students. IEP’s are designed to provide a student with an appropriate education – it does entitle a student to a maximum of benefits. Special Ed can be different in different schools, depending on the teacher/school’s ability to provide interventions necessary and what needs to be supplemented. Board expressed concern for the rights of other students to not be disrupted. Carol responded that what’s right for the student is right for the school; they need to be part of the school and community. Students that have to deal with special needs kids can develop empathy for those with disabilities. There are more and more kindergarteners arriving that need special services.

Stan presented the latest version of the budget for FY17, noting that to keep the budget under the Act 46 cap, an additional \$153,00 would need to be transferred from the Tax Stabilization Fund. Board members considered whether to postpone a vote on the budget pending the vote for the merger – the merger would eliminate the cap and reduce the tax rate by 8 cents, more thought is necessary.

He also requested Board decision on tuition bill back for FY15 – it is allowed by the state if the tuition charged is less than actual costs (greater than 3%). After brief discussion, Board voted to not bill back Ira – to keep the FY 15 tuition charge at \$10,800.

Dave postponed discussion on the book as neither Maureen or Alison were present. He advised that a new principal for Mill River High School had been chosen and was excited about the outstanding candidate. He was not able to provide details pending final negotiations. Board discussed how personal learning plans would apply to elementary school students.

Maureen’s report was written, she was unable to attend due to illness. She noted that the air handler for the Pre-K room had been moved; there was a CO2 monitor installed in the PreK classroom; the locksmith has begun installing locks on outside classroom doors; soffit work has been completed; two painters have been contacted for exterior work – still waiting for bids; research continues regarding the new tiles oozing glue – no one is taking responsibility for it; and that \$2,000 funding was needed for a separate play ground for Pre-K. She also reported that Living History this spring will be School Days from 1860; in early January teachers will assess students in grades 1-6 in regards to reading accuracy, fluency and comprehension; professional development has been scheduled during the afternoons that students will skiing at Pico; and that grades

5/6 are working towards a class trip to Washington, D.C. in May. No action by the Board.

Board approved Bills and Orders.

Dave advised that the Vermont's State Board of Education would be meeting next week at Mill River to consider this SU's Study Committee's request to merge/consolidate.

Gail noted that at the Special School/Town Meeting held on December 5th, school voters had unanimously voted to transfer the school buildings and tax stabilization fund to the town and that town voters had accepted unanimously.

Board set next meeting for January 13th at 7:00. Dave will not be able to attend, but the Board needs to discuss principal position for next year.

Planning Commission ~ 12/28/15

Present were members Michael Fallar, Kim Harbaugh, Vito Macaluso, Amanda Vumbaco, Grant Reynolds, Kevin Ruane, and Bob Lloyd, as well as Gail Fallar, Secretary.

Members discussed estimate from Rutland Regional Planning Commission for work to update and revise the Town Plan by September 2017. As the Town was not approved for a state planning grant this year, members decided to ask the Select Board to include money in the FY17 budget for planning work. Members discussed whether RRPC's expertise was needed, whether members could re-write the plan, time line, the need to amend the current plan in regards to commercial solar projects and whether RRPC could require other elements to be updated when the plan is being amended for solar – as the plan will be undergoing revision for 2017. Clarification is needed on that point. Members voted that the TPC request \$3,000 be included in the FY17 budget for work on revising the town plan for re-adoption in 2017.

Members will review list prepared during the enhanced review done by RRPC last year regarding work needed for the town plan update for January meeting, as well as continue work on solar language to amend the town plan.

Bob advised that he and Sue would be moving to Rutland, but that he hoped he could continue to serve on the TPC. It was noted that it is not a requirement to be a resident to serve on the PC.

Next regular meeting set for January 25, 2016.

Conservation Commission ~ 12/14/15

(With thanks to Carmen Fallar, Sec.)

Present were members Ann Czar, Doug Fontein, Carmen Fallar, Barbara Held, and Jo Reynolds, as well as Gail Fallar and Kim Harbaugh.

Old Business:

Ridge Trail Kiosk – Members discussed various options for a map, deciding to use the Ortho photo map, the bigger the map the better, don't clutter the map, label the

school/community center, parking lot, Rt. 140, Kiosk, Bog Bridge, Stone Wall, Saddle and Overlook. The labeled parts will have a picture next to them in the kiosk. And add Tinmouth Mountain Ridge Trail in the legend.

Ann asked if a brochure and kiosk were needed, members decided no. The kiosk will have all of the relevant information inside. Tinmouth Elementary School students might attach a bird box to the kiosk to provide seasonal interpretive information about the trail (tracks, wildflowers, trees).

Other information inside the kiosk will include the "Rules". "Pack It In, Pack It Out (Leave nothing but tracks)" for instance. Ann will provide a description of the how to use the blazes. Jo will add photos around the map with little arrows to each of the points on the map that goes with the picture. She will also laminate all of the items going into the kiosk. Helen Mango has provided the geological information about the ridge that will be included in the kiosk. Doug will write a piece about the history of how the trail came to be and the folks needing to thanked (Vermont Land Trust, Tinmouth Conservation Commission, Tinmouth Land Trust, Adam Guettel, Kim Beaty, Bob & Sue Lloyd et al).

Tinmouth Purchase Recreation Area – The new cabin is almost complete. It needs a stove pipe. The doors and windows, tin roof, most of the siding, stove, and chimney are all installed. We would like to recognize all the people who helped with this project: Doug Fontein, Cathy Reynolds, Ray Pratt, Cat Yoder, Caleb Scott, Ken Krantz, David Birdsall, Hollis Squier, Marshall Squier, Wheaton Squier, and Kim Harbaugh.

The loop trail still needs blazing, discussion regarding what colors to use, need to revisit issue in the Spring.

Cathy Reynolds volunteered to be the reservation manager for the cabin for overnight use. This information will be included in the kiosk, an announcement on Front Porch Forum and in *Tales of Tinmouth*.

Free Hortonia Dam: Gail spoke to Lisa Thornton and Doug Blodgett, Vermont Department of Forest and Parks and Fish & Wildlife, respectively. They do not want to clear the area in front of the cement wall. They have concerns about its historic nature and don't want it being used for graffiti. They are willing to spiff up the existing parking area for access to the Channel.

New Business:

David Birdsall had some good ideas for speakers, starting with invasive plants in the area. Perhaps Ann Bove or Lisa Thornton, early April on a weeknight?

Doug reviewed the Open Meeting Law requirements.

Other Business: Carmen suggested donating some Field Guides to the school. The CC needs to find out what they have and what they need. And then find out if there are any copies out there folks are willing to donate or if they will need be to purchased.

Next meeting set for February 15th at 7pm.

Solid Waste and Recycling Committee ~ 12/17/15

With thanks to Helen Mango, Secretary

Present were members Gregg Casey (chair), Rick LaCroix, Gunner Morris, Gail Fallar, Helen Mango (secretary), and Wheaton Squier.

Batteries: Gail reported that a new State program asks that towns now collect all batteries that weigh less than 4.4 lb. (i.e. no car batteries) and place them in special collection bins (to be supplied to each town). Periodically they will be collected and shipped for recycling (at no cost to the town). The program is called Call2Recycle. Collection bins will be at the Town Office and at the Transfer Station.

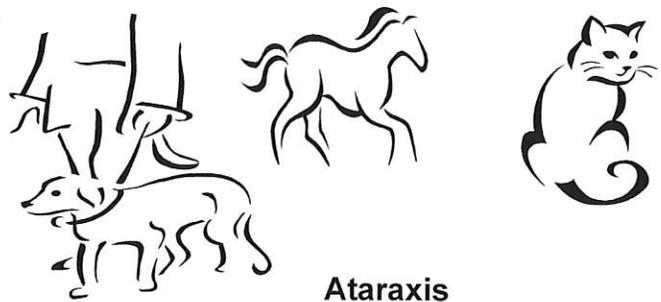
Cardboard: Discussion about balers for corrugated cardboard: Gail reported that Pam Clapp (administrator for the Solid Waste Alliance Communities) said that small balers don't make sense economically. She said that if Tinmouth was interested in having a baler, she would recommend looking into used balers, which run about \$5000-\$8000. (Chittenden has one, if we want to see one in action.) Canusa (the company that currently collects our cardboard for recycling) can market the resulting bales, so they are worth more than the loose cardboard that we currently send for recycling. A baler must be on a cement pad inside a building, although the structure can be fairly basic. Gunner will look into this.

Metal: Gunner suggested having a metal container that can be top-loaded (rather than the end-loaded container we currently have). It could potentially go next to the garbage container. Rick and Gail noted that if we remove metal cans from the Casella Zero-Sort container and put them in the metal container, we could save money. It costs us to have Casella pull the Zero-Sort container, but the metal is taken away at no cost. This will require some educational materials for townspeople so that they know to put their cans in this separate container.

Electronics: Tinmouth is no longer an electronics collection facility. Wallingford will accept our electronics at no charge, but individuals have to bring their old electronics to Wallingford for disposal. We will post a list of what qualifies as "electronics" so that the Transfer Station attendants know what is now banned from our site.

Discussion followed regarding repositioning the various containers and buildings at the Transfer Station/Town Garage site. There is enough room for everything; we just need to figure out the most efficient and effective use of space. The Road Crew needs to decide if they want any rearrangement of the site for their purposes.

Next meeting of the SWARC: March 24, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Town Office.



**Ataraxis
Pet Care
Canine, Feline, Equine**

**2172 Route 140 West
Tinmouth, VT 05773**

Daily dog walking - convenient daycare from your home

Horse care when you are away

Equine exercise services

Cat care when you are away

Reliable, reasonably priced service

References available – Insured

"Quality care when you can't be there"

Ann Czar 446-3207

Accessories & Clothing
for your everyday adventures

**Storewide
SALE
30% off
January 2-19**

(Except jewelry & Buff headware)

**Mon-Sat 10-6
802-773-5007**

Tattersall's
CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

96 Merchants Row, Downtown Rutland Facebook.com/TattersallsClothing

**Vermont's Free Ice Fishing Day is January 30
Ice Fishing Festival to be Held at Lake Elmore State
Park in Celebration**

ELMORE, Vt. – Vermont's third annual **Free Ice Fishing Day is January 30, 2016**. To celebrate, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is holding an Ice Fishing Festival at Lake Elmore State Park in central Vermont.

The festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is free and families with kids are encouraged to attend.

Fish & Wildlife Department staff, as well as instructors from Vermont's Let's Go Fishing Program, will be on-hand to teach ice fishing basics. These include knot tying, baiting and using an ice fishing rod, and most importantly, how to stay warm on the ice. They'll also discuss fishing regulations and go over fish identification.

Department staff will operate a fish fry station to cook up participants' catch, and there will also be other refreshments on hand including plenty of hot cocoa. There will be several warming huts available.

"Ice fishing is one of the most accessible forms of fishing and can be a great way to introduce kids to how much fun fishing can be," said Jud Kratzer, fisheries biologist for the Fish & Wildlife Department.

"This festival will demonstrate that ice fishing isn't just about catching fish," said Kratzer. "It's also a great way to spend some time outdoors with kids. You can skate, sled, make a snow fort and have a cookout – all while waiting for the flags on your tip-ups to signal when you've caught a fish."

The Fish & Wildlife Department will lend equipment needed for this fun day on the ice, or participants may bring their own equipment. There will also be prizes and giveaways. For more information, contact Nicole Meier at 802-318-1347 or nicole.meier@vermont.gov. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required, and is available at www.tinyurl.com/IceFishingFest2015. Access is via Beach Road off Route 12.

Hunter Education Instructor Training Courses Offered

MONTPELIER, Vt. -- The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is offering several New Instructor Training Courses for people interested in volunteering to teach Hunter Education, Trapper Education, or Bowhunter Education courses in Vermont.

The courses will take place February 21 in Berlin, Vt., and March 12 in Castleton, Vt.

Policies and procedures, field techniques, and teaching methods will all be covered in order to give instructors the tools to teach future Vermont hunters how to have a safe and enjoyable experience.

"The skills and ethics that our instructors impart to their students will serve them for a lifetime," said Nicole Meier

with Vermont Fish & Wildlife's hunter education program. "There is no better way for a hunter to give back to the outdoors than by instructing the next generation of hunters."

All applicants who pass the training are required to pass a background check with a warden and shadow a Chief Instructor before they can teach on their own. Upon completion, they will then receive their full State of Vermont Hunter Education Instructor Certification.

"Our hunter education instructors are all volunteers, donating their time to pass on a cherished Vermont tradition," said Meier. "The hours our instructors put in will leverage federal dollars that allow the Hunter Education Program to function."

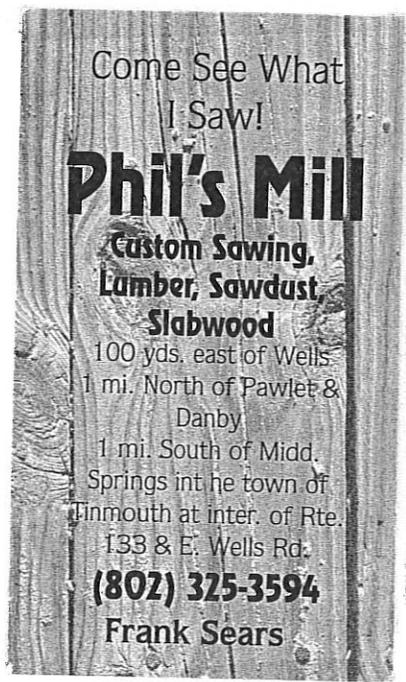
Those planning to attend should sign up online at www.tinyurl.com/VTNIT2016 or call 802-828-1193 at least one week prior to the course date.



Jim Keyes
Fully Insured

Keyes Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
New Homes • Remodeling • Radiant Floors • Heat Pumps
Air Conditioning • Water Softeners • Solar Heating
Mini Split A/C

15 East Wells Road (802) 645-9519
Wells, Vermont 05774 Cell (802) 779-4039
keyes.james@gmail.com



Come See What
I Saw!

Phil's Mill
Custom Sawing,
Lumber, Sawdust,
Slabwood

100 yds. east of Wells
1 mi. North of Pawlet &
Danby
1 mi. South of Midd.
Springs in the town of
Timothy at inter. of Rte.
133 & E. Wells Rd.

(802) 325-3594
Frank Sears

Cottage For Sale

We are selling our lovingly restored cottage at the end of West Shore Drive, # 100 (some may still know it as the Gilmore place).

It has been totally renovated in the past 6 years, so it is new from the inside out.

2 bedrooms, open kitchen/ living area, large bathroom with electric baseboard heat, propane heater for the main living area, electric stove. All appliances are new within the last 5 years.

It is being sold furnished, so this means you could simply walk in and start to enjoy!

Check us out on Facebook "Made in the Shade Tinmouth, Vt"

If interested, or know someone who is interested, please contact Barbara or Rob at 802.558.7395, 516.509.7663 or message us on the FB page.

NOBLE ACE HARDWARE

261 NORTH MAIN STREET
RUTLAND, VT 05701
(802) 773-2758

OPEN: 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM MON.-FRI.
7:00 AM – 7:00 PM SAT.
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM SUN

HARDWARE WITH A HOMETOWN FEELING



Mark FitzGerald
REALTOR

Visit us at www.BuySellVT.com

FitzGerald Realty

531 Cutler Corner Road
Barre, Vermont 05641
Toll Free: 1-866-734-3489
(Cell) 802-236-2028
FitzGeraldRealty@yahoo.com



Therapeutic Massage

Lisa Marie Donohue, MA, LMT

The Thrive Center of the Green Mountains
68 South Main Street • Wallingford, VT 05773

t: 802.446.2499

The Pie Shack

Shauna Woods
206 Main Street
West Rutland, VT
353-0354
thepieshack@aol.com

TINMOUTH MOTORSPORTS

DARREN BABIN



486 ROUTE 140
TINMOUTH VT 05773

802 4469134
802 2360885

GREATSLEDPARTS@YAHOO.COM

SNOWMOBILE ATV MOTORCYCLE
PARTS SALES SERVICE

ARCTIC CAT SKI-DOO POLARIS YAMAHA
HONDA KAWASAKI SUZUKI BUELL

FACTORY CERTIFIED TECHNICIAN

LOCKWOOD CONSTRUCTION

RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL - INSURED - FREE ESTIMATES
OLD HOME RESTORATIONS - NEW BUILDS AND MORE

(802)-446-1524

(802)-353-1998

TINMOUTH, VERMONT

LOCKWOODBUILDER@YAHOO.COM



LCS BUILDERS

20 Bliss Road
Tinmouth, VT 05773
(802) 446-2728
lcsbuilders@vermontel.net

New Construction
Renovations
Fine Cabinetry
Millwork

Doug Fontein Tinmouth Channel Construction

143 Channel Road
Tinmouth, VT 05773
(802) 446-2928 phone
(802) 446-2930 fax
eworks@vermontel.net

*energy efficient custom built
homes and additions*

FAMILY HISTORY SEARCH

Do you know your grandmother's maiden name?
Or what your great grandfather did for a living?
Who were you 'Immigrant Ancestors'?

I may be able to help you find answers to questions like these. I have fifteen years experience in genealogical research and a huge curiosity about our ancestors. Reasonable rates. Free initial consultation.
Call me to set up a time.

Gene Usher Tinmouth, VT
Phone 446-2228 or Email
genieusher@gmail.com



R & D HOME SERVICES

Roxanne & David Aubrey
802-446-2117 or 802-779-7053
43 Ezra Stone Rd. Danby, Vt. 05739
Faucets to Furnaces, Boilers to Baths
Housekeeping to Hauling
OVER 28 YRS EXPERIENCE
Let us help you with your many needs of home ownership



Brian Marshall
Master Plumber



bmarshallplumb@aol.com
Phone: 802-855-8109

For plumbing problems call the Marshall! No job too big or small.

Specializing in new construction and renovations
on all aspects of plumbing and heating.

42 East Washington St, Rutland, VT 05701

**Land For Sale at 567 East Road,
Tinmouth, VT 10.7 Acres
Asking \$58,300
Please call 508.943.1754**



Join your neighbors, stop burning money
on home heating -- and improve your comfort!
The NeighborWorks H.E.A.T. Squad is
your one-stop solution.

Call today (802) 438-2303 x 227 www.HeatSquad.org

Work Wanted: Companion sitting, light house work, child care, dog walking, feeding animals, running errands, taking you to a medical appointment.

Carol Bohlin, 446-2119

Vermont Matters.®

Providing banking solutions to
Vermonters and Vermont Businesses since 1849.

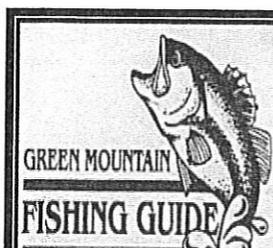
merchants
BANK

mbvt.com | 800-322-5222

Rutland
286 Route 7 South
747-5000

Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender

Check out Rod's web page at
www.greenmtnguide.com !!



GREEN MOUNTAIN FISHING GUIDE S · E · R · V · I · C · E

- Specializing in bass, northern pike and trout
- Year round fishing available
- Fully equipped Bass Boat
- Equipment provided
- Custom rods & repairs

ROD START • GUIDE
593 ROUTE 140, TINMOUTH, VT 05773
802-446-3375

Bud Coolidge Electric, Inc

Residential & Commercial Wiring
101 School Street -- P O Box 72
Pawlet, VT 05761
802-325-3073

Kripalu Flow Yoga
Thursday Evenings
5:30 - 7:00 pm
At the Tinmouth Community Center
*"Stretch away muscle tension,
breathe deeper, let go."*
Kripalu certified yoga instructor,
Bess Lewis,
leads rejuvenating and deeply
relaxing flow sequences.
Come give yoga a try in a warm
inviting yoga community!
Experience improved strength and
flexibility.
besszephyr@yahoo.com

This was read at Hadwin Young's celebration of life.

The Dash

by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on her tombstone from the beginning . . . to the end.

-
He noted that first came the date of her birth and spoke of the following date with tears,
but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

-
For that dash represents all the time that she spent alive on earth . . .
and now only those who loved her know what that little line is worth.

-
So think about this long and hard . . . are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left. (You could be at "dash midrange.")

-
If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and real,
and always try to understand the way other people feel.

-
And be less quick to anger, and show appreciation more,
and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

-
If we treat each other with respect, and more often wear a smile . . .
remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

-
So, when your eulogy's being read with your life's actions to rehash . . .
would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent your dash?



Presorted Standard
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Wallingford, VT 05773
PERMIT # 12

Tales of Timmouth
515 North End Road
Timmouth, VT 05773