

TALES OF TINMOUTH

March 2016
Vol. 30 Number 3

Tinmouth
Vermont



Editor's Note: Is Spring on its way, or has it already arrived? Or will we still endure winter?

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

~ Dog Licenses Due April 1st ~

A current rabies certificate is required. You can call the Town Office if you don't know if your dog needs a shot or not. Fees are \$9 for neutered/spayed dogs and \$13 for those that are not. 50% penalty is assessed after April 1st.

The Town of Wallingford is hosting a Rabies Clinic on March 26th, (see back page for details) and then stop by the Tinmouth Town Office to register your pet.

~ Retired Road Comm. Hollis Squier Honored ~

Newly retired Road Commissioner Hollis Squier was honored before Town Meeting began with a poem written by his brother Marshall (it's on another page) and a Resolution passed by the Vermont House and Senate read by Representative Robin Chesnut-Tangerman. Matt Patry, Chair of the Select Board, presented Hollis with golf balls and a gift certificate, and thanked him for his nearly 36 years of service to the town, taking care of the roads as if they were his own. Hollis was also presented with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Town, along with three standing ovations along the way.

Hollis expressed his appreciation for all the accolades and good wishes.

~ 2016 Town Meeting Results ~

Saturday, February 27th ~ Town, Highway and School budgets passed unanimously by voice vote, as did a \$400 appropriation to The Child First Advocacy Center. Approximately 130 voters were in attendance.

Under Other Business (Non-Binding): Voters discussed the Old Creamery Committee's request to the Select Board to borrow money from the Town's Capitol Building and Repair Fund to construct a porch on the Old Creamery, and by a show of hands, advised the Select Board to allocate the funds (it is a town building) and not require the OCC to repay it.

Voters also discussed the Select Board's decision to reject a petition signed by 33 voters to add an article to the Town Meeting Warning regarding providing health insurance to a 35 year town employee (the retiring Road

Commissioner) until he reached Medicare eligibility. The Select Board advised that the petition was rejected because voters do not have the authority to decide personnel policy.

Voters advised the Select Board by a show of hands that they indeed supported such a move to amend the Personnel Practice to allow that benefit. The Select Board advised that they were going to appoint a Blue Ribbon Committee to research what other towns similar in size to Tinmouth provided as benefits and will revise the Town's Personnel Practice/Policy. Several folks volunteered to be on that committee.

On Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 269 voters cast ballots for Town and School Officers; Presidential Primary Candidates; Merger of the School District; and a Zoning Regulation Amendment.

Presidential Primary

Democratic	Republican
Clinton 20	Carson 5
Sanders 136	Cruz 9
	Kasich 22
	Rubio 21
	Trump 39

Town & School Officers (winners in bold)

Moderator Town & School - Stan Wilbur

School Director - Sarah Graham received 8 write-in votes (13 others received one or two)

Select Board Member - Frank Sears 139; Amanda Buffum Gill - 62; Gregg Casey -61;

Road Comm. - Eric Buffum- 201; Kevin Ruane - 66

Lister 3 yr term - Shirley Bucceri

Lister 2 yr term - Carmen Fallar-162; Carolyn Feury-77

Auditor - Sandy Goyette

Auditor - Alan Held

2nd Constable - Tyler Dana received 15 write-in votes (20 others received one or two)

Town Agent - Rick Fallar

Grand Juror - Glenn D. Merrill

Tax Collector (Delinquent) - Cat Yoder

School Director White Rocks Unified School District -

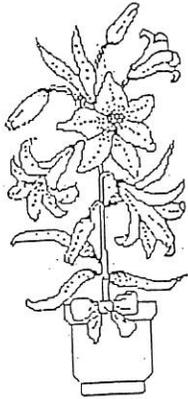
Grant Reynolds

School Merger passed 234 to 28

Zoning Amendment passed 179 to 79

Ye olde Town Clerk sends many thanks to all the volunteers and members of the Board of Civil Authority who helped make both Saturday and Tuesday run smoothly.

March 2016 Calendar of Events



Australian Balloting*	Tuesday	1 st	10 am – 7 pm	Community Center
Fire Dept	Thursday	3 rd	7:00	Fire House
Select Board	Tuesday	8 th	7:00	Town Office
School Board	Wednesday	9 th	7:00	School
Contra Dance	Friday	18 th	8:00	Community Center
Town Office	Saturday	19 th	CLOSED	
Palm Sunday Service	Sunday	20 th	9:00	Community Church
Maple Festival	Sunday	20 th	1-4 pm	Middletown Springs H.S.
Conservation Comm.	Monday	21 st	7:00	Town Office
Select Board and PPC	Thursday	24 th	7:00	Town Office
Maundy Thursday	Thursday	24 th	7:00	Wildwood in Chittenden
Good Friday Service	Friday	25 th	7:00	Community Church
Edmunds Fund Raiser	Saturday	26 th		Community Center
Rabies Clinic	Saturday	26 th	10-Noon	Wallingford Town Office
Easter Breakfast	Sunday	27 th	7:30-8:30 am	Community Church
Easter Service	Sunday	27 th	9:00 am	Community Church
Planning Commission	Monday	28 th	7:30	Town Office
Select Bd., School Bd. & Comm. Ctr. Bd.	Thursday	31 st	7:00	Town Office
THGS			No March Meeting	

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

April 2016 Calendar of Events



Dog Licenses Due	Friday	1 st	Noon	Town Office
Fire Dept	Thursday	7 th	7:00	Fire House
Concert	Friday	8 th	7:30	Old 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
Work Day	Sunday	17 th	1:00	Tinmouth Ridge Trail
Concert	Friday	22 nd	7:30	Old Fire House
HHW Day	Saturday	23 rd	8-10 am	Transfer Station
THGS	Sunday	24 th	2:00	Town Office
Planning Commission	Monday	25 th	7:00	Town Office



March Select Board meeting was changed to Tuesday the 8th due to conflict of member's schedules.

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

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 7th – lots going on that day, Green-Up and the 32nd Annual Plant Sale in the morning and the Library has guest speaker Howard Frank Mosher in the afternoon.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE AND BREAKFAST

You are invited to join friends and neighbors for Easter Sunday service at 9 a.m. in the Tinmouth Community Church.

Breakfast will be served from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. And for the children, an Easter egg hunt will be held after the service. All are welcome!!

~ Town Meeting Accolades ~

Ye Olde Town Clerk thanks volunteers for setting up and taking down chairs and the stage, setting up and running the sound system, running the microphone around the room, setting up and taking down voting booths, checking voters off the checklists, counting ballots, etc. These include:

David & Nancy Birdsall, Ed & Shirley Bucceri, Sierra Bryant, Ann & Jonathan Czar, Ruth Drachman, Doug Fontein & Cathy Reynolds, Nelson & Betti Jaquay, Ken Krantz, Holly Noble, Bob Noble, Matt & Lisa Patry, Laurie Phillips, Ray Pratt, Pat Psholka, Grant & Jo Reynolds, Weezie & Caleb Scott, Melody and Marshall Squier, Wheaton Squier, Gene Usher, Stan Wilbur, anyone I missed, and the Volleyball players (who play on Tuesday nights and wanted to use the gym).

And many thanks to all the folks who brought non-perishable items for the Tinmouth Food Shelf! Thank-you Anne Lewis for the idea! We'll do it again at the State Primary in August and General Election in November.

And kudos to the teachers and students who participated in an election of another sort that day – they voted for their favorite Dr. Seuss Book (his birthday would have been March 2nd). They proceeded through the checklist line, voted in the voting booths, and deposited their ballots in a special ballot box.

~ Message from the Town Board of Listers ~

The Listers are busy working on the statistical re-appraisal adjustment for the 2016 Grand List, with the assistance of Douglas MacArthur who has overseen with the last two re-appraisals.

This is also the time of year when the Town's Listers are out and about inspecting new decks, porches, garages, etc. They will send out change of appraisal notices in late May. Every property owner has a right to grieve their assessment whether they receive a change of appraisal notice or not.

Grievance hearings will be held in May or June. If you wish to grieve, appointments can be made by calling the town office at 446-2498. If you just want to review the information on file for your property, please stop by the town office for a copy.

~ Homestead Declaration ~

This a reminder that you need to file an **annual** Homestead Declaration with the Vermont Department of Taxes, form HS-122. You must file this to qualify for the homestead education tax rate and to request a property tax adjustment if you are eligible. You must also file form HI-144 (household income), **due April 18th**. This is required even if you do not have to file or pay state income taxes.

Please Recycle or Pass Along Tales!!

~ Library News ~
by Ruth Drachman, Librarian

Saturday openings are now a reality! The library will be open on Saturday morning once a month. Look for the librarian to be there on the **FIRST** Saturday of the month from 9:00 A. M. until noon beginning in April.

For Adults: We have the newest books by Bill Bryson, Robert Galbraith, Archer Mayor, Geraldine Brooks, Howard Frank Mosher, Alexander McCall Smith, Kate Morton, and Elizabeth George.

New books on CD are many. Come get something to HEAR!

Save Saturday, May 7th. **Howard Frank Mosher** will be in Tinmouth at the Old Firehouse in the afternoon. He is the author of many books, among them *Stranger in the Kingdom*, *Disappearances*, and his newest book, *God's Kingdom*. In addition several of his books have been made into movies. Mr. Mosher has lived in Vermont in the Northeast Kingdom since 1964. Thank you to the Tinmouth Community Fund for the grant which enables the Library to bring Mr. Mosher here to Tinmouth.

Come check us out!

The Library is open Monday and Thursday 9:30am until Noon, and 1:00pm until 5:00pm and also the first Saturday morning of the month from 9am until Noon.

~ Join Team Trail Blazers in the Great Strides
Walk for Cystic Fibrosis ~

On May 21st I will be walking for Regan and Maren (as well as others afflicted with this disease). I will not be participating in another Extreme Hike as they have stopped organizing this event for the future. Instead, I am creating a team of WALKERS/HIKERS for a morning at Pine Hill Park.

Please join my team and walk with me, or kindly make a donation to the team.

Cystic fibrosis is a life-threatening, genetic disease that affects approximately 30,000 people in the United States. Research and care supported by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation continues to make a difference in the lives of people with CF.

Your generous gift will support the Foundation's mission to find a cure and improve the lives of people with CF. Plus, your gift is 100 percent tax deductible. Donating is easy and secure. Simply visit my team page and follow the prompts to make a donation. Any amount that you can contribute is greatly appreciated. Your support will help fuel lifesaving research and care for people with CF.

To learn more about this devastating disease and the impact of the CF Foundation, please visit www.cff.org. Thank you for supporting me and my Great Strides team!

Together we can make a difference and add tomorrows to the lives of people with cystic fibrosis.

Sincerely, Carmen Fallar

GREEN-UP DAY
Saturday May 7, 2016
by Doug Fontein

Hi neighbors -- This is Doug Fontein, reaching out to you about Green Up Day. On Saturday, May 7th, we'll gather as a community at the Tinmouth Transfer Station at 8:30 A.M. to pick up roadside trash. Last year, 21,000 volunteers collected more than 40,000 bags of trash statewide. This year, we hope to have more volunteers than ever!

Something new for Green Up Vermont is on the charitable section of the Vermont State income tax form IN-111 in section 6. Please consider supporting Green Up Vermont through a donation on your state tax form. Because Green Up Vermont is a non-profit organization, programs like Green Up Day are only possible with public contributions. I'll be in touch soon with more information about this year's Green Up Day and how we in Tinmouth can participate. To learn more, visit www.greenupvermont.org. Thank you!

You can get your Green-Up bags at the Town Office before that day - or at the Transfer Station that morning. Thank you for your help in making Tinmouth a truly beautiful place to live!

The Green-Up Committee would like folks to pick-up Tinmouth roadsides from **8:30 am** (meet at the Transfer Station to pick-up bags and road assignments) until **10:00 am** (meet back at the Transfer Station).

For those who cannot make it that day, there is always the "do-it-yourself" option. Stop by the Town Office to sign up for a section of road to be "greened" at another time. You will receive special Green-Up bags. Roadside trash collected during Green-Up can be deposited at the Transfer Station during regular hours at no charge. We all appreciate clean roadsides and this way everyone can do their part if the main event poses a scheduling conflict.

The Tinmouth School will Green-Up on a day to be coordinated with the school staff. Students and staff will gather at the school for Green-up of the Center. The school undertakes this event as a yearly community service effort. Contact the school for date and time.

For more information call Doug Fontein at **446-2928**, Ed Hasenohr at **446-2676**, or Nelson Jaquay at **446-2367**.

~ Small Batteries Are Now Being Recycled! ~

Batteries are now being collected at the Transfer Station and the Town Office -- any battery that weighs less than 4.4 pounds is acceptable. You were previously allowed to put them in the dumpster, please don't, please recycle them!! It's FREE, they can be regular or rechargeable. Cell phones are accepted as well. Details available at the town office or transfer station.

~ Tinmouth Plant Sale May 7 -
Volunteers Needed to Dig & Pot ~
By Cathy Reynolds



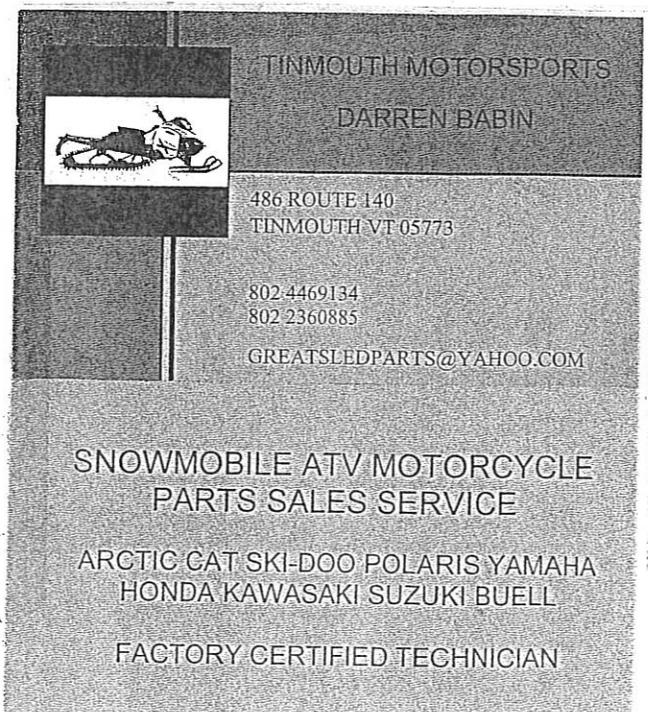
Hello Gardeners and volunteers: The famous Tinmouth Plant Sale will again be happening on its traditional day, the Saturday before Mother's day which is May 7 this year. We will be selling locally grown and dug perennials to benefit the Tinmouth Scholarship fund. This event is the primary fundraiser for our scholarship fund which awarded 8 scholarships totaling \$9,500 in 2015. Together with our annual fund contributors (our other key revenue source), you can help us be able to support our scholars again!

We are looking for volunteers to dig, pot and mark plants. Diggers will need to deliver chunks to 143 Channel Road on the morning of Saturday April 30 and the morning of Sunday May 1. We strive to have all our plants potted and marked the week before the sale. Please call or email me to let me know what you can dig, so that we can manage the varieties. Special arrangements can be made for delivery on alternate days/times.

We need potters at 143 Channel Road on Saturday April 30 from noon-5 and on Sunday May 1 from noon-until we are done. No experience necessary! We work in any weather condition so come prepared to be outside (that could mean hats and gloves or sunscreen and lemonade). A quick email to let me know you can help would be appreciated.

We always accept donations of plastic pots 4" or larger. Please no 6 packs or hanging baskets - round and square pots only. These can be left on the bench at the Town Office or delivered to 143 Channel Road.

From the Tinmouth Gardening Team - Thank you!
Questions, call Cathy Reynolds at 446-2928 or email eworks@vermontel.net



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

~ Tinmouth Community Church ~

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite places is the edge of the water, especially the ocean. For the past two weeks I have been able to walk on the shore almost every day and have found it to be wonderfully peaceful and healing. In a time of grief, a good friend advised me to get to the ocean, to walk, to listen, to be there without an agenda. It was good advice when I had no words to say and when my tolerance for listening to any kind of outside chatter was at an all-time low. Slow and steady, the waves kept coming. Birds flew and circled, then landed again, not allowing anything to deter them from their chosen spot on the shoreline.

You can trust the ocean waves to build up, wash onto shore, and then wash out again. You can trust the tides to rise and fall according to the pull of the moon. There is a steadiness to their ebb and flow, to their coming and going. And even though they continually change, they also in an equally dependable way, stay the same. We find this balance between change and steadfastness reassuring.

When I lead guided meditation sessions at the college, one of our favorite ways of bringing the mind to a quiet sense of peace is to picture ourselves floating on the ocean. Imagine our bodies resting on the salty, buoyant, warm water, not a care in the world. Held... Safe... At peace...

Each of us has a place that brings us a sense of peace. It may be a summer meadow in the evening or it may be a snowy winter day. It may be the desert or it may be the top of a mountain. No matter where it is that you find peace, I encourage you to give yourself the gift of going there – either in person or in your imagination. Take time each day to be in touch with your heart, with your longings, and let yourself be refreshed. No matter what you are going through, no matter how long your “To Do” list may be; may you carve out some time to soak in the gifts that the natural world offers.

May you experience the peace, the serenity, the healing that are uniquely yours.

*Many Blessings,
Shirley*

Palm/Passion Sunday is March 20th – Begin Holy Week together at 9:00 am.

Maundy Thursday at Wildwood in Chittenden at 7 pm

Good Friday is March 25^h – We will commemorate this date with a simple service of readings, music, reflection and prayer beginning at 7:00pm.

Easter Sunday is March 27th – Come and celebrate! We begin with a community breakfast open to all - served from 7:30-8:30 am, followed by Worship at 9:00 am, and then an Easter Egg hunt for children after the service.

~ Kudos and Appreciation ~

*The family of **Hadwin Young** would like to thank you for your thoughts, prayers and support in the loss of our husband, father and grandfather. “Had” would have been honored by your words of remembrances.*

Helen, Holly, Hal, Karen and Kristine

Get Well Wishes are sent to **Harry Chew, Art Psholka, Nelson Jaquay, Iris Klinger, Marianne Gagne, Burritt Larson, and belatedly to Phil Lidstone.**

Heartfelt Sympathies are sent to **Rev. Shirley Oskamp** and family for the loss of her mother, and to family and friends of **Bob Smith.**

Welcome to Tinmouth’s newest arrival, **Jackson Sears**, son of **Samantha Foley and Corey Sears**, who arrived on February 8, 2016. Best Wishes to all.

Happy Birthday to **Ari Fallar, Giana Squier, Colton Cone** and **Enid Whitingham** who all celebrate this month!

~ Nature Notes ~

Red winged black birds are back, as are robins, and gaggles of geese. The weather continues being strange – warm days (70+ degrees on 3/9/16 ~ the ice went on the Tinmouth Pond that day) – then the temperature will dip to 10 and zip back to the 50’s in another day or so.

Daffodils (with buds) and tulips are 3 or 4 inches high, snow drops are going by, patches of green are appearing here and there. Mud puddles are making grandchildren very happy!

Ticks are out too! Several folks have reported them after even a brief walk in the woods. Time to get out the Permethrin.

Hollis Squier called on 3/16/16 to report frogs jumping across the road in Chippenhook.

Simply Fitness

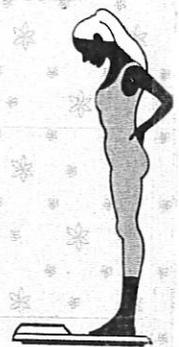
Group Classes and Personal Training
Specializing in workouts for women

Anne Robbins

Acè 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



~ Marion's Musings for March ~
by Marion Hambly

This winter, I did not go south; instead I have been doing what I call a twenty year dig-out! That's right. I started my traveling in earnest in 1996, when I drove to Florida with Marcus and Alba Fish and Bob and Grace Bell.

I had a small conversion van and big ideas about touring the country after I reached Florida.

We started from Tinmouth during the week between Christmas and New Year in 1996. They put me in the middle of our little caravan and off we went. It was cold, but for the most part the roads were clear.

We were headed for Route 81. We made pretty good time, stopping for gas, food, etc. The Interstate was a bit mushy in places due to melting snow, but we went right along, doing well until we got into Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where we were to spend the night. We goofed. Alba had scouted ahead and had signed us into a motel, Budget, I think. With the way traffic sped along, I wasn't always able to keep up with Marcus and Alba. They went ahead, and I ended up following Bob and Grace. When they turned off, I went right along after them. We drove for quite a while but didn't find the motel. Bob decided to get back on the thruway and try it again. This we did and found the motel just off the highway. In we pull, but no Alba and Marcus. We explained our problem and the clerk called another Budget Motel, ten miles down the road. Sure enough, Marcus and Alba were there. We decided to stay where we were and join up with them the next morning.

Continuing on our way, we arrived at Dunnellon, Florida. It was a short distance from there to where their house was in Crystal Springs, sort of a housing development, very pleasant.

I stayed there a few days and then continued along to visit my sister Peg, who was at a mobile home park in Englewood, further down the western coast of Florida.

Before I left Vermont I had been corresponding with a gentleman whom I met online in a club just for RVer's like me. He lived in New Port Richey just above Tampa. I had made arrangements to stop and visit him on my way to my sister's, which I did. He was a very nice man. I camped there overnight and agreed to stop again on my way back.

I visited with my sister for a few days and then went back to New Port Richey to get better acquainted with the gentleman. We both belonged to an RV club called, 'The Loners'. It was for people like me who were single. We went to a campout that week-end and then back to his house. His name was Dick Hambly. I stayed around for a while, we drove to other camp-outs and when he asked me to join him on a trip he was going on that summer, I agreed. He was going all the way to California to visit his brothers and sisters along the way. I went back to Alba's and then drove back to Vermont. Later, in May, I flew

back to Florida and embarked on the trip with Dick across the country and at the end of it we ended up in Vermont, where I introduced him to my family. As you can see, my last name is now Hambly, but that is another story.

Until later. Marion

This dig out I am talking about consists of twenty years of traveling with pictures and journals. I am going to be quite busy. This is just the beginning . . .



**Tinmouth Contra Dance
with Mary Wesley Calling & Shindy**

**Friday, March 18, 2016 at 8:00 pm
Tinmouth Community Center, 573 Route 140**

TINMOUTH - Don't miss this dance with Shindy (Peter Miller on fiddle and Roger Kahle on guitar) and Mary Wesley calling on **Friday March 18 from 8-11 pm** at the Tinmouth Community Center. All dances are taught, and you do not need a partner. If you are a beginner, come at 8:00 for a beginner's lesson. 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. 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.

More info at tinmouthcontradance.org. Like us on Facebook at Tinmouth Contra Dance and mark your calendar for our upcoming dances:

Red Ace and the Garden Flyers with Peter Stix calling on **April 15**

Gam-Ham Band with Licia Gambino-Hamilton calling on **May 20**

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

Hunting and Fishing Licensees are available at the Town Office. The town receives \$1.50 for each license sold!!

~ **Tinmouth School News** ~
By *Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker, Principal*

Tinmouth School is now part of the newly formed union school district with Wallingford, Mill River, Shrewsbury, and Clarendon (officially called Mill River Union School District). One major impact of this merger is that the Tinmouth School Board will disband by the end of June. Grant Reynolds, our newly elected board member from Tinmouth will represent our interests on the new school board. Additionally, an advisory board for Tinmouth will be created in the upcoming months to discuss concerns unique to Tinmouth that will inform the work of our representative on the new school board.

Many may not realize how instrumental Grant was in writing and introducing the merger plan. He ensured that Tinmouth could only be closed with a unanimous vote of the Union School Board and a majority vote of the Town. Grant, along with our Superintendent David Younce and other board members volunteered countless hours to not only write the merger plan but to inform local residents of the pros and cons of the merger. The faculty and staff at Tinmouth are very appreciative of the long hours expended as well as the expertise that Grant, Dave, and the other members of the Study Committee shared to ensure Tinmouth students receive an excellent education.

I would also like to thank the Tinmouth community on behalf of the fifth and sixth grade students for helping us raise funds for the class trip to Boston. Our sloppy joe and baked goods sale at the town meeting and on voting day has brought us half way to our goal of raising \$1500 for the trip. Thank you!

On March 28th, the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders will be attending "Charlotte's Web" at the Paramount Theatre in Rutland. Students read the book in class and will have an opportunity to compare the story presented through two diverse forms of media. (This is an English Language Arts Standard for these grades).

The days are getting longer and mud season is upon us. I'm hearing unusual bird calls in the early morning around dawn which tells me the annual migration has begun. The sun seems warmer as well.

Spring is just around the corner!



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

~ **Tinmouth Elementary School Basketball Team** ~
photo by Jim Barrett



Front row: Sierra Bryant, Julia Deppert, Morgan Predom
Back row: Coach Carrie Casey, Taylor Patch, Dallas Bryant, Tor Majorell, Alex Eaton, Jimmy Barrett and Coach Anna Majorell.

Fun. Funky. FunKtional.

more FUN in the MUD!
But wear boots...
don't ruin your socks!



Tattersall's
CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

New Hours!
Tues-Sat 10-6
802-773-5007
96 Merchants Row, Downtown Rutland Facebook.com/TattersallsClothing

Meeting Highlights ~

Information from unofficial minutes

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

Select Board ~ 2/11/16 ~

Present were Board members Gregg Casey, Laurie Phillips, and Matt Patry, as well as Grant Reynolds, Kevin Ruane, Frank Sears and Gail Fallar- Board Assistant.

Highway – Kevin reported he had repaired the brake and steering column on the loader – still needs windshield repair and tires. He also noted the backhoe was back together, brakes were fixed but it needed its radiator re-cored as it was leaking at the top. Gregg advised that it was not worth putting money into, listed a number of rusted and breaking parts, lots of rust underneath, etc., need to think about replacing it with a used one, as a backhoe will be needed for culvert and storm water work projects.

Gregg and Kevin had recently attended a county road commissioner's meeting concerning Better VT Roads grants – Susan Schreiber at RRPC (Rutland Regional Planning Commission) and Nanci Maguire at RNRCD (Rutland Natural Resource Conservation District) are available to assist towns. Towns were advised to apply for as many projects as they could as there is more funding available this year and the town can take two years to complete the work. Culverts need to be prioritized by next Board meeting on 3/10/16.

Board reviewed Inspection Report from Wade Masure – Risk Manager for the town's insurance company (VLCT PACIF) – a list was compiled that could be done ASAP (like getting the furnace cleaned, inspect fire extinguishers, lighting repair and upgrade, flagging training, eye wash station update, etc. while others - like providing water and septic at the town garage) will take more planning. Board decided to work on items graded 'B' first, there were no 'A's which require immediate action.

The fire department was also inspected, a walkway at the rear of the building needs to be clutter free, Kevin moved the old fuel oil tank down to the fire department's storage trailer at the town garage. Board expressed concern with that and when informed that there was also an old fuel tank downstairs in the old fire house, Matt moved to advise the Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department that they had 120 days to remove both tanks and dispose of them properly by June 30, 2016. Laurie 2nded. Matt and Laurie approved, Gregg abstained as he wanted one and would take both. Motion carried. Board then added the old Scott Air-packs at the town garage to the motion, all voted in favor.

Board discussed whether light bulbs were disposable and whether there could be a box for them at the Transfer Station. Gail advised that the newer light bulbs (LED and coil) were considered hazardous waste and folks needed to keep them at home until there was a Household Hazardous Waste Day at the Transfer Station.

Board decided to apply for a Safety Grant through VLCT PACIF for dump blocks for working on the dump trucks (keeps them from dropping down) and safety equipments such as chainsaw chaps and helmets. Board may work with the Fire Department to send just one grant application as they need equipment as well.

Board discussed whether to provide road crew with safety shoes (required by VOSHA) or consider that part of the annual uniform allotment. Town will provide \$150 towards the boots, employee can purchase more expensive ones if they wish, if purchased through the town, there would be no sales tax.

Board discussed running a telephone and Internet access to the Town Garage, deciding it needed to be done.

Board discussed paving grant on Rte 140 – past the old Valentine place and south of the Cattail Pond corner (Rte 140 and North End Road intersection). Board wants information from the road inventory to decide where to pave if a state grant is not approved this year. The grant is needed to help cover cost of re-construction of those sections.

Board passed Resolution to accept the school buildings and gave Matt Patry authority to sign any necessary documents in that regards.

Gail advised that there was need for an outhouse and bunks for the new cabin in the Purchase, as it is on town property. Frank noted that he (Phil's Mill) would donate the wood needed. Board then agreed to provide up to \$100 for roofing, nails, etc. Matt expressed high thanks and appreciation to Frank.

Gregg advised that the prior \$600 estimate to get water from the small pond by the town garage was not enough to get the project done – he will a better estimate for the next meeting.

Board discussed the Town's Personnel Practice – Matt advised that at town meeting he was going ask for volunteers with backgrounds in human resources to submit letters of interest and qualifications. Board will appoint a committee to make recommendations to the Select Board. Members discussed need; VLCT has a model policy to use as a starting point. Frank suggested asking current employees what their duties included.

There was brief discussion reminding members of Vermont's Open Meeting law that requires that when two of them are discussing town matters, there has to be public notice and minutes kept. Two members were present when the inspection of the town garage was taking place, but no notice was provided.

School Board ~ 2/10/16

Present were Board members Grant Reynolds, Alison Alexander, and Sarah Graham, as well as Stan Pawlaczak, RSSU Business Manager, Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker-Principal, Melinda Coupe TES Educator, Jo Reynolds, and Gail Fallar – Treasurer and temporary scribe

Grant called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, reviewed agenda, adding posting to Front Porch Forum.

Superintendent Dave Younce provided a written report. Grant and Maureen explained staff development was being coordinated via a regional calendar to be less disruptive and not occur during a school day (1/2 day once a month with an after school program to cover that time).

Principal's Report – Maureen reported that Wanda will replace the floor tiles and she is waiting for a painting estimate from Rainbow Squier. She also reported that she and the staff had decided that there would be no more than two grades per teacher next year, she will teach literacy to one grade, the special ed teacher will cover some science, and as the Kindergarten class will be 14 or 15 Allyn will assist in the morning and Lisa in the afternoon. This year's K class is 3 students.

She and the Board discussed the proposed 5/6 grades class trip to Washington D.C. – given concerns raised by parents, it will more than likely be changed to a one day trip to Boston.

Business Manager's Report – Stan provided an updated financial report – estimated fund balance at year end is a \$19,000 deficit. Also provided a hot lunch report.

Board passes Resolution regarding transfer of school building to the Town of Tinmouth and authorized Grant Reynolds to sign any necessary paperwork.

Board discussed the Inter-local Contract between the Town of Tinmouth and the Tinmouth School District (TSD) regarding use of the Community Center. As the TSD will disappear if merger is approved, the Town and School need special town meetings to dissolve the contract. As the Town now owns the buildings, there will need to be agreements made between the new union district and the Select Board (Town) and the Community Center Board for use and maintenance of the structures. It was suggested that the school principal be a non-voting member of the Community Center Board.

Grant expressed concern with folks still thinking the school will close if the merger is approved. He wrote an article and posted it to Front Porch Forum from the Board stating that the school will not be closing. Board ratified this action.

Board and Maureen signed her two year contract.

Board entered executive session at 9:00 to discuss personnel issues. Exited at 9:05, no action taken.

Board discussed proposed Advisory Council (Committee) under the new union district – how do they get appointed? Intent is to include parents as well as community members. This Board appoint the first one? Should it be done by the principal? More discussion is needed.

Board set next meeting for March 9th at 7:00.

Planning Commission ~ 2/29/16

Present were members Bob Lloyd, Michael Fallar, Amanda Vumbaco, Vito Macaluso, Kim Harbaugh, Grant

Reynolds, and Denise (Tess) McGinley as well as Gail Fallar, Secretary.

Members reviewed map of land protected by conservation restrictions/easements and by the state's Current Use program drawn by Bob Lloyd. Gail advised that the Current Use land was protected from commercial solar development while it was enrolled, but the land could be withdrawn (and a penalty paid) and then developed. Bob read many of the guiding principles from VHCB (Vermont Housing and Conservation Board) which the Vermont Land Trust largely relies upon, and which in effect said "it depends"; all conservation easements are not equal, many have different aspects to consider. It was also noted that the conserved lands were created/protected privately by individuals and that could ensure those lands not being developed for commercial solar projects. Members discussed how to best use the map for the proposed amendment of the Town Plan – by including it, it may give guidance to potential developers.

Michael noted that the Town needs to plan, as there most likely will be a solar project and there could be a very good place and project. Members discussed having two maps, one showing conserved/current use restricted, and another where projects would be allowed; could it be done with an overlay zone? Bob volunteered to work on it.

Vito inquired about solar shares being sold out of state, Grant will research. Members discussed REC's (Renewal Energy Credits) being sold out of state – one member said even if Vermont couldn't claim any renewal energy it would put a coal plant out of business somewhere, while another member countered that it also enabled a coal plant to stay in business because they bought REC's.

Members then discussed the work indicated necessary by the (RRPC) Rutland Regional Planning Commission's Enhanced Review – air quality (encourage use of calcium chloride on back roads and encourage owners of outdoor wood stoves to upgrade to less polluting models) – census data (which was not yet available for the 2012 update)-address unemployment; water quality – new requirements for farms; encourage more locally grown produce and meat; and flood resiliency measures.

Members wish to speak with someone from RRPC at their next meeting regarding draft solar amendment for the town plan and the flood resiliency element.

Gail, as Zoning Administrator (ZA), requested advice regarding a proposed boundary adjustment between Phil Hepburn's lot (#7) and the remainder of his mother's farm (Lot #4). Bob Lloyd recused himself as he was involved with the original permit and departed the meeting. Lot 7 was originally created as part of the Hepburn PRD (Planned Residential Development) in 2006. Lot 7's size is 1.44 acres – and considered a conforming lot due to the PRD permit. In order for the arena, (which was built without notice to the Town), to rest solely on the farm parcel, Phil needs to deed .06 or so acres to the farm

parcel, making his lot smaller and non-conforming. The ZA is not authorized to issue a boundary adjustment if one of the lots becomes non-conforming. After discussion, PC members concurred with this decision of the ZA and will hold a hearing once an application is received. PC will only review the lot lines – conflicts the Hepburns have with the VLT and its partners in the original permit and conservation restrictions will be between them. The PC had dealt with this issue in 2012, issuing a decision with several conditions (including approval from VLT and its partners) that were not met and so that decision became void (as one of the conditions was that all others had to be met or the decision became void.)

Next regular meeting set for March 28, 2016.

Conservation Commission ~ 2-15-16

With thanks to Carmen Fallar, Sec.

Present were members Ann Czar, Doug Fontein, Carmen Fallar, Jeff Alexander, Jo Reynolds, and Dave Birdsall as well as Gail Fallar, member of the public.

Old Business:

Ridge Trail –

Map update: Doug reported he had spoken with Bob Lloyd. The colors cannot be changed. The GPS was not quite exact. Scale was fixed. 2.5 mile hike overall. Map will have pictures around it in the kiosk, mostly of specified points along the way.

Other items in the kiosk: Revision of the “RULES” to include “leave nothing but tracks.” Geology paragraph by Helen Mango was arranged a little differently. Jo will get her approval before posting; also need it in a bigger font for easier reading. Possibly include some pictures of the kinds of rocks to look for on the hike.

Trail Work Update: Doug has done GPS on the new portion of trail past the Overlook. He also cut some trail. Members will need to create a sign for “Private Property” to follow the height of land and look for white blazes in a ¼ mile.

Liaison with the Gilmore’s: members are hoping that Marshall Squier will be the CC’s liaison for discussing trail issues on their property. Members want their approval on signage. Vermont statute does limit liability for recreational use of private property.

Work day: Sunday, April 17 at 1pm meet at Community Center parking lot. Objective is to cut trail, blaze trail up to the Gilmore property.

Acknowledgements for the trail: Adam Guettel, Kim Beaty, David, Alan and Andy Gilmore, Peter and Lucy Gilmore and family, Bob and Sue Lloyd, VLT (Vermont Land Trust), Donald Campbell (VLT), VHCB (Vermont Housing and Conservation Board), Tom Richardson, VLP, Pam Burlingame (VLT), TLT (Tinmouth Land Trust), and TCC (Tinmouth Conservation Commission) members.

Tinmouth Purchase Loop: The Cabin is open for business. Reservations to be made with Cathy Reynolds.

The cabin has a sleeping loft, table and a woodstove. It needs dry firewood! Jerry Buffum has been asked to keep an eye on things. The cabin also needs an outhouse. Frank Sears will donate lumber for the bunks and the outhouse!!!

Signs are up for how to use the woodstove and how to dig a cat hole with a spade (for bathroom needs until the outhouse is built). The cabin still needs; to build the bunks, a ladder, a bench and some chairs for the table, cut and stack dry firewood and general instructions for cabin usage to go inside the cabin. Battens on the outside still need to be done as well.

New Business:

David Birdsall is talking to Lisa Thornton about doing an invasive species talk on a weeknight in April. Still trying to get Jens Hilske to come speak.

Doug is writing a story to share with the VACC about the success of the cabin.

No outing planned due to unpredictable weather and conditions.

Next meeting set for March 21st at 7pm.

Tinmouth Community Fund Executive Board Meeting ~ 2/25/16 with thanks to Helen Mango, Sec.

Present were members Cathy Reynolds (President), Jan Krantz (Vice President), Jo Reynolds, Annie Robbins, Ray Pratt (Treasurer), Melody Squier, Ramsay Yoder, Patty Macaluso, and Helen Mango (Secretary), as well as Gail Fallar and Frank Sears.

Cathy gave a brief overview and history of the TCF to bring Frank up to speed. The goal of tonight’s meeting is to review grant proposals. The TCF received 10 grant applications.

Ray Pratt, Treasurer: Report on Finances -
Balance of funds in the Vermont Community Fund = \$179,670 - \$42,581 = Reserve Fund (we can withdraw more than 5% of this fund if we have extraordinary reason)
\$137,089 = Endowed Fund (this is a more restricted fund; we can spend no more than 5% per year from this fund)

We have donations of \$5,613 currently in hand (as donation checks in the TCF checkbook).

Total assets = \$185,283.

Members reviewed 10 grant applications for Community Fund grants. Discussion ensued.

If all ten proposals are funded, that would be \$5,000. There is enough in the local bank account to cover this amount. Board approved all applications.

Setting grants for scholarships: \$36,000 is available. Last year the TCF Board allocated \$10,000 and awarded \$9,500. With the money raised in the fall campaign for scholarships (\$3,205), and including the Plant Sale income (\$3,888), and theoretically 5% from the Fund, we could allocate up to about \$9,000 this year. Applications are due in May. How much do we want to allocate for this year?

Board voted to take \$9,000 from the scholarship part of the General Fund (Plant Sale + dedicated scholarship money), and \$500 from cash on hand, and allocate \$9,500.

K-12 camp scholarships: Cathy suggested that we advertise this program better to draw more applicants this year. These are 50% grants (unless an applicant requests more for particular hardship). Annie volunteered to help review the camp scholarship application form. Melody will help. Board voted to allocate up to \$1,000 for camp scholarships.

Annual meeting: This will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 27, in the Community Center. Cathy will prepare an agenda for this meeting. Cathy, Melody and Helen are up for re-election. The scholarship committee is also up for re-election.

Helen volunteered to make the certificates to be awarded along with the grants.

The committee thanked Gail for her many years doing all kinds of jobs for the TCF.

Board adopted the "Tinmouth Community Fund Roles and Responsibilities", and decided that applications for TCF grants be due January 31 to give the committee more time to review the applications.

There was a discussion among the committee about broadening the scope of the grant applications – how can more people get involved in either donating funds or applying for grants?

Tinmouth Community Fund ~ 2/27/16 Annual Meeting *With thanks to Helen Mango, Sec.*

Present were members Cathy Reynolds (Chair), Jan Krantz (Vice Chair), Ray Pratt (Treasurer), Jo Reynolds, Patti Macaluso, Annie Robbins, Helen Mango (Secretary), and interested citizens of the Town of Tinmouth

The minutes of the annual meeting of Feb. 28, 2015, were approved.

Ray, as Treasurer, gave a report on the fund's finances. Investments at the VCF total \$179,670, of which \$42,580 is in the reserve fund; the endowed portion is \$137,089. Cash on hand is \$5,613 in the Tinmouth check book. Total assets: \$185,283. Within that is the scholarship fund allocation of \$36,062.

The fall fundraisers raised \$15,590 – \$2,400 for the community fund, \$3,205 for scholarships, and a large gift of appreciated stock that went to the scholarship endowment. The Plant Sale donated \$3,888 for a grand total for 2015 of \$19,478.

Cathy encouraged people to continue to donate to the Community Fund, particularly in their wills.

Jan reviewed the grants awarded in 2015 – There were nine grants, for a total of \$4,500.

Helen handed out the grants for 2016 (\$500 each):

- Tinmouth Art Camp
- Tinmouth Contra Dance

- Tinmouth Handbell Ensemble
- Tinmouth Library
- Tinmouth Milfoil Project
- Tinmouth Old Creamery Committee
- Tales of Tinmouth
- Tinmouth Elementary School (2 grants)
- Tinmouth Historical and Genealogical Society

Grant awardees summarized the activities that these grants will support.

Cathy reported for the Scholarship Committee: In 2015, eight scholarships were awarded, totaling \$9,500. The scholarship committee members are Bob Lloyd, Ruth Drachman, Rene Wilbur, Annie Robbins, Tess McGinley, Nelson Jaquay and Caleb Scott.

The Scholarship Committee was re-nominated and elected by voice vote.

Elections to TCF Executive Board: Cathy Reynolds, Helen Mango, and Melody Squier were re-elected to three year terms. Cathy Reynolds was elected Chair; Jan Krantz -Vice Chair Helen Mango-Secretary, and Ray Pratt-Treasurer.

Annie explained the summer camp scholarship. Cathy encouraged kids present (and parents) to apply for these scholarships, which cover half the cost of the camps.

Middletown Springs Historical Society **28th Annual Maple Festival** **Sunday, March 20, 1- 4 pm**

On the Green, Middletown Springs



- * Sugar on snow
- * Maple cotton candy
- * Homemade desserts
- * Maple products
- * 2016 syrup
- * Raffle - cash prizes
- * Silent Auction
- * Kids activities
- * History Exhibits

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~ The Tinmouth Old Firehouse Spring Concert Series
Begins April 8th ~

The Old Firehouse Crew is delighted to announce its Spring 2016 dates. We have some amazing musicians performing on our small stage this spring. We hope to see you at all of them.

All concerts are on Friday nights at 7:30 PM in Tinmouth village. The Old Firehouse is on Mountain View Road just a few hundred feet south of the intersection with Vermont 140. Park on the road or on the Town Green in front of the church. Suggested donation of \$10; 90% goes to the musicians. 10% goes to the Town to support maintenance of the Old Firehouse. Local groups provide refreshments. Your donations support their activities.



The Old Firehouse Opens April 8 with
Bluegrass by Possum Haw

The Old Firehouse is opening its 2016 season with an old favorite of Firehouse-goers: the Vermont band Possum Haw. This is a special combination: the drive of bluegrass and the original lyricism of folk, delivered by one of the finest female vocalists in the region, Colby Crehan. Formed in 2004 by Colby and husband Ryan (banjo player) and lead guitarist Charley Eiseman, the group has evolved into a well-oiled machine with stunning vocal harmonies and stellar acoustic instrumentation. They have filled the Firehouse to the brim before and we are looking forward to hearing them again.

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Hilton Park Comes Over From Maine With Roots
Music for the Old Firehouse - April 22



The Old Firehouse likes to be refreshed from time to time with folks we haven't heard from before. Hailing from Southern Maine, Hilton Park is known in the Northeastern U.S. for earthy, emotionally expressive and superbly crafted Americana, Folk & Blues. Every song tells a story, and there's a story behind every song.

Combining veteran musical & songwriting skill with teen enthusiasm, father/son team Bruce and Conor Hilton and family friend Gregg Pannier explore intimate musical textures with their sophomore release "Strings", digging into the roots of American Blues, Folk Rock and Country, while maintaining a contemporary feel that is 100% Hilton Park.

The Hilton Park sound is authentic and endearingly classic, with enough modern grit to captivate today's audience. The backdrop of their live performances looks like the wall of a music store, with acoustic guitars, mandolin, dobro, weissenborn, Irish bouzouki... up to 9 instruments at any given show, plus Pannier's piano. Along with the varied instrumentation, stylish and confident 3-part vocal harmonies fill the repertoire, combining the 'blood harmony' recalled in family acts from the Everly Brothers to the Avett Brothers with a melodic skill often compared to Crosby, Stills and Nash. Their songwriting style shows New England savvy, yet with roots in the Deep South. They've won multiple awards for their performances, including "Best Band in Maine"

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2016 Town Meeting Poem

by Marshall Squier

~ Hollis and the Tinnmouth Roads ~



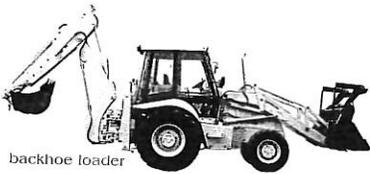
snow plow

Well it all started 36 years ago,
When Hollis was elected to plow the ice and snow.
Old Ernie said he's too young, but I will go get a truck,
Came back from Montpelier with an old FWD and said 'Good Luck'.

One head light, poor tires, a manual wing on the side,
Hard to start on cold mornings, any brakes? Hang on for the ride.
The old loader, no muffler or brakes, what a sound,
Spun the steering wheel three times just to start turning around.

But he made it all work, sometimes holding it together with glue,
The roads all got plowed, everyone got through.
Back when he started all the back roads turned to mud,
Mufflers, and tail pipes - when you fell off a rut, just a big thud.

The devil came to Vermont and said I am a road commissioner too,
I'll make ruts and mud and who will be stuck? You.
Well Hollis rolled up his sleeves and said, give me my do,
I am going to be the best and get rid of the likes of you.



backhoe loader

And he did, each year he attacked mud holes with gravel and stone,
The cars could drive right over, not thuds or moans.
Down through the years the roads kept getting better,
People said he's a worker, he's not a sitter.

The road became more and more of him,
He knew every culvert, cut out, low limb.
Yelled at me and my father when we rutted the road while hauling hay,
Keep those flowers and shrubs and fences out of the right of way.

Some of us remember winter after winter, 30 below, storms coming on a northeast track,
Huge drifts and piles took the grader and the loader to push it all back.
But Hollis was up between 3:00 and 4
Pulling on his coat, heading for the door.
Because the roads needed plowing and sand put down,
So the early school bus could safely get our children around.

But in the back of his mind he also kept another score,
While most of us slept and continued to snore.
Could an ambulance get to the old folks if the need came around,
Could the lady having a baby make it to town?



He didn't do this all on his own,
He had good help with the same back bone.
Glenn and David and Ronnie got up a 3 AM just like him,
And they all had to put up with the old mother hen.

Other folks said Tinnmouth roads are the best that can be found,
Go ask him how and do it in our town.
In 1998, he won Vermont Municipal Highway Person of the Year,
As the best road commissioner from far or near.

So thank you Hollis for all those years you dedicated to Tinnmouth town,
And for getting out of your truck to give a hug, if someone looked down.
You were more than the road crew as many can attest,
And you can be proud to have left Tinnmouth's road some of the best.

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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.

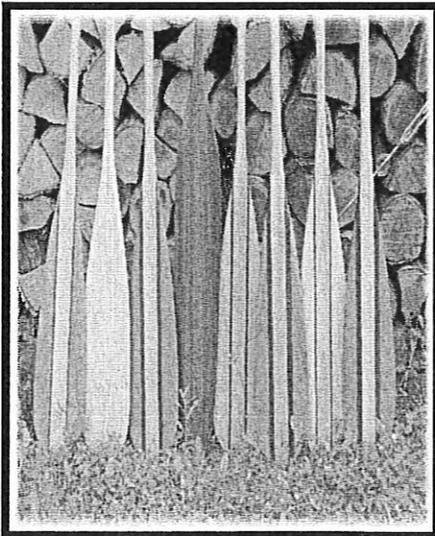
2 bedrooms, open kitchen/living area, large bathroom with electric baseboard heat, propane heater for the main living area, electric stove. All appliances are new within the last 5 years.

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"

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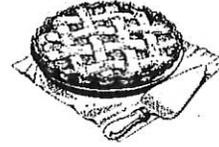
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