

TALES OF TINMOUTH

April ~ May ~ June 2016
Vol. 30 Number 4

Tinmouth
Vermont



Editor's Note: As my Grandfather used to say, "The hurrier I go, the behinder I get!" And so April and May didn't make it to print and are being combined with June. Se la vive!

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

There is a bit of old news herein – just in case you missed it and need a reminder (like getting your homestead declaration filed, or licensing your dog). The Town's website tinmouthvt.org has been refreshed, you can track happenings there (some minutes are posted) as well on Front Porch Forum. There are many pages of minutes!!

The Annual Plant Sale once again was a huge success, raising nearly \$4,400 for the Tinmouth Community Fund Scholarship Program. *Thank-you to all who helped dig, pot, sell, buy, etc. Mark you calendar for next year – it's always the Saturday before Mother's Day.*

Green-Up day saw many volunteers picking up road side trash. There was a great turnout, and there were prizes and ice cream at the end. If you would like to continue through the year, there are more green-up bags available at the Town Office.) Thank-you to **Doug Fontein, Nelson Jaquay and Ed Hasenhor** for coordinating events and to the Tinmouth Conservation Commission for their support and providing prizes. **Thank-you to all the volunteers as well**, for making/taking time to keep our roadsides clean. One good find was the contents of a strong box that had been stolen – birth certificates, etc. were returned to the rightful owners. *Green-Up Day is always the first Saturday in May.*

The **Old Fire House Spring Concert Series** was hugely successful as well. One concert had 120 attendees! There will be more in the Fall. In the meantime, there are others who will be performing at the Old Fire House during the summer. Notices will be on Front Porch Forum and in *Tales*.

On **May 7th** **Howard Frank Mosher** was a guest speaker at the Old Firehouse. He is the author of many books, among them *Stranger in the Kingdom*, *Disappearances*, and his newest book, *God's Kingdom*. Mr. Mosher has lived in Vermont in the Northeast Kingdom since 1964. Thank you to the Tinmouth Community Fund for the grant which enabled the Library to bring Mr. Mosher here to Tinmouth.

School is out for the summer, farmers are making hay, gardens are getting planted

~ Re-appraisal and Grievance Hearings ~

The Board of Listers has completed the town wide reappraisal and have mailed notices to all property owners. Grievance Hearing will begin on **Monday, June 20th**. Please call the Town Office to schedule an appointment if you wish to grieve your new assessment. You are welcome to stop in anytime at the town office to review your assessment card to make sure the information about your property is correct, or to ask questions.

The Grand List had decreased due to the last one being in done in 2009 just as the Great Recession was happening. Values have dropped as indicated by a number of recent sales. So while most assessments have gone down, you need to remember that the town and school still need the same amount of tax dollars to operate. The tax rates will increase, as yet they are undetermined.

~ Operator's Manual Information Update ~

Please find enclosed the updated information sheet for the Tinmouth Operator's Manual. Please tuck it in a safe place – like the manual- and make a copy to place beside your telephone or post on the refrigerator.

~ 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. *(There are still a few of you out there that have not filed yet, the Listers have a list!! It's not too late.)*

~ 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 re-chargeable. Cell phones are accepted as well. Details available at the town office or transfer station.





June 2016 Calendar of Events



Fire Dept	Thursday	2 nd	7:00	Fire House
School Board	Friday	3 rd	5:30	School
TES Graduation	Friday	3 rd	6:00	Community Center
School Picnic	Thursday	9 th	10 am-2 pm	Pavilion at Tinmouth Pond
Select Board	Thursday	9 th	7:00	Town Office
Concert	Friday	10 th	7:30	Old Fire House
Free Fishing Day	Saturday	11 th	All Day!	All over Vermont
Concert (Spoon Mtn)	Sunday	12 th	4:00	Old Fire House
TCF Scholarships	Thursday	16 th	7:30	Old Fire House
Summer Reading	Friday	17 th	11:00	Library
Father's Day	Sunday	19 th	All Day!	Call your Dad!!
Grievance Hearings	Monday	20 th	6:00	Town Office
Conservation Comm.	Monday	20 th	7:00	Town Office*
Concert (Waxwings)	Thursday	23 rd	7:30	Old Fire House
Summer Reading	Friday	24 th	11:00	Library
Planning Commission	Monday	27 th	7:30	Town Office



July 2016 Calendar of Events

Town Office/Library	Monday	4 th	Independence Day CLOSED !!
Fire Dept	Thursday	7 th	7:00 Fire House
Summer Reading	Friday	8 th	11:00 Library
Select Board	Tuesday	12 th	7:00 Town Office
Summer Reading	Friday	15 th	11:00 Library
Planning Commission	Monday	August 1st	7:30 Town Office

* Upstairs Meeting Room at the Town Office

July Select Board meeting has been changed to Tuesday the 12th

July Planning Commission meeting has been changed to Monday, August 1, 2016

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 and Thursday 9:30-noon and 1-5 pm.

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

Kripalu Yoga, Saturdays 9:00-10:00 AM \$10 per class Bess Lewis, Instructor, Old Fire House



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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

~ **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 Unified 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!

~ **Vacancies** ~

The Select Board is looking for volunteers to serve on the Old Creamery Committee, the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee, as Pound Keeper, and as Deputy Tree Warden. If you are interested, please contact the town office at 446-2498.

Please Recycle or Pass Along Tales!!

~ **Library News** ~
By *Ruth Drachman, Librarian*

Join the Summer Reading Challenge at the Tinmouth Library.....Read Books, get prizes and surprises!!

A schedule of special events for children of all ages is found elsewhere in the Tales.

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

New books at the Library for Adults:

The Murder of Mary Russell by Laurie R. King, the title tells all..... or does it?

Journey to Munich by Jacqueline Winspear, the newest Maisie Dobbs story, the twelfth in the series. Maisie is working for the British secret service, and is sent to Hitler's Germany, where she meets with danger and intrigue.

For young Adults and Children: many, many new books. Come see!

New books on CD are many. Get something to HEAR!

Mrs. Pollifax Pursued, by Dorothy Gilman, Mrs. Pollifax is a CIA operative. She is also a senior citizen, a member of the garden club, and an unlikely spy.

Miller's Valley by Anna Quindlen, the story of a family. Quindlen's writing "wraps you in warmth".

Death of a Nurse by M.C. Beaton, Hamish Macbeth is at it again!

The Baker Street Letters by Michael Robertson, a new series about two brothers who are lawyers and who lease offices on London's Baker Street, and begin receiving mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes.

Writing group will meet on **Sunday, June 12th** in the Library at 1:30.

The Book Discussion group will meet on **Sunday, June 26th** at 3:00 PM in the Library.

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.

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



~ Tales for 2015 ~

Revenues totaled \$2,143.58 (TCF grant, donations from the Tinmouth Church and the School Parents Club, advertising, 58 cents in interest and private donations.

Expenses – postage, paper, labels, and copying totaled \$2149.11. \$5.83 was carried forward from a small fund balance to cover the difference. Thank-you to everyone who sent a donation, and thank-you to the volunteers who show up on short notice to fold, tape and label each month.

~ Unclaimed Property at the
Vermont State Treasurer's Office ~

Rep. David Potter dropped off a list of Tinmouth folks who have unclaimed property being held at the State Treasurer's office. There is a process to get it back. Telephone, snail mail and Internet are ways to access and claim it. Visit www.Vermont.gov Treasurer's office for more information, or stop by the town office to find out if you are on the list. Nearly 40 Tinmouth folks are named, some are now deceased, some have moved, but some are still here – values are less than \$10 to more than \$200. Could be a forgotten bank account, uncashed check, security deposit refund, etc. These items have to be turned over to the state treasurer by banks, insurance companies, and others.

~ 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

~ Kudos and Appreciation ~

Congratulations to 12th grade graduates ~ **Chelsey Keyes** from West Rutland H.S. and **Chelsea Young** from Mill River U.H.S. And to **Alyssa Eaton** who not only graduated from Mill River, but also completed her first year of college at Castleton University. Best Wishes in all your future endeavors!

Congratulations to TES 6th grade graduates: **Dallas Bryant, Julia Deppert, Alexander Eaton and Morgan Predom**. Good luck in Junior High.

Get Well Wishes are sent to **Harry Chew, Iris Klinger, Marianne Gagne, Hollis Squier, and Donald Hepburn**.

Heartfelt Sympathies are sent to family and friends of **Lena Hill**, to **Kevin Duprey** and family for the loss of his mother; and to **Jackie Lorman** for the loss of her mother.

Special thoughts and prayers are sent to family and friends of **Leo Branchaud**, a local farmer who was tragically run over in the road near his farm on Gulf Road.

Congratulations to a number of Tinmouth folks who were recently honored by Vermont Secretary of State, Jim Condos for their long public service.

20-24 years: **Ruth Drachman, Michael Mackey, Leonard Morris, Caleb Scott**

25-29 years: **Glenn D. Merrill, Cathy Reynolds**

30-34 years: **Michael Fannin**

40-44 years: **Gail Fallar, Nelson Jaquay**

45-49 years: **Hollis Squier**

50-54 years: **Robert Emerick, Marshall Squier**

55+ years: **Glenn W. Merrill**

Thank you all for your service and caring for your community!!

~ Nature Notes ~

Peepers started peeping on March 31, frogs were seen in the road on Easter (3/27), a glorious end of March – daffodils, crocus, then on April 4th 3 or 4 inches of snow fell and the temperature dropped to 2 degrees! The weather got really cold, the peepers stopped peeping, it warmed up, they started again, got cold again, they stopped, finally they were able to continue their courtships and we were able to enjoy a joyous sound of Spring!

Daffodils blossomed only to be crushed by snow and cold!! Warm days followed by bone chilling weather, followed by warm days and then a bit of snow. Throw in a bit of mud and it's Spring!! Leaves slowly climbed up the mountain sides. A number of flowers seemed to have gotten frosted one too many times – daffodils, lilies, lilacs, and apple blossoms to mention a few.

Summer Solstice is coming soon – enjoy the long evenings while you can!!

~ Marion's Musings for April ~
by Marion Hambly

The travel saga continues. . . . After meeting my family, Dick and I returned to Florida. By now it was September, and I shall try to fill you in on some of the places we traveled that summer.

First we traveled to Tennessee where his youngest brother lived near Nashville. While there we went to Opryland, where such stars as Roy Acuff and Loretta Lynn performed. I hope some of you remember it. There were all kinds of country music and gospel music.

From there we motored to an Army Corps of Engineers site at Mt. Vernon, Illinois. These places are not advertised, but if you can find one, they are cheap to camp at. There was a huge lake there and a dam. Big farm country, corn and wheat. Lots of grain silos along the way, large rolling hills and huge flat meadows. Lake Rend is the name of the lake.

After staying here for two days, we were off again heading for St. Louis, Missouri. My sister Norma lives there and Dick had a niece nearby. Stayed another day and then headed for Branson, Missouri. Where there is another Opryland sort of place for country stars, etc. It is very hilly we stayed at a campground at Table Rock Lake.

We got tickets to see Mel Tillis, I hope someone of you remember him. Enjoyed the show and the next day we started for Little Rock, Arkansas where there is a sister. Dick had four sisters and three brothers. We were in for a long trip.

As I said, it was very hilly there. In some places, bridges were built to connect the hills, quite a sight. And the roads were twisty and went up and down.

Going down the highway, we circled around little Rock and came to a town named Camden where the sister lived, and found a campground. There were a lot of pine trees everywhere, even in the camp ground; kind of tricky when you have a 28 foot fifth wheel. We made it!

Did our visiting and then headed for Texas. We averaged about two or three hundred miles a day. We were in no hurry, had all summer. We traveled across the panhandle and it was hot! Flat land, huge cattle ranches, fields of grain, corn, etc. We stayed at another Corps of Engineers site at Lake Lavon, near Dallas.

By the way you might be interested as to the cost of fuel back then. (1996) Diesel fuel was \$1.36. Look at it now.

It is now June 13. It is getting hotter and hotter. I don't think we will go further south. In fact tomorrow we will head for Oklahoma, 90 degrees. Texas is flat, flat, flat. Coming through Fort Worth, we noticed a lot of factories. There are three big beer companies.

Finally we got across the panhandle and into New Mexico. Tomorrow we hope to make Holbrook, Arizona for the Petrified Forest and Painted Desert. We traveled

through some pretty desolate lands, especially the Indian reservations. Very dry here, I don't know how the Indians were supposed to make a living on these lands. Traveled all day and went up 7200 feet above sea level at the Continental Divide. Lots of mountain passes here. Soil and rocks are red, beautiful.

We finally made it to Holbrook where we stayed for three days. Next time, I will tell you of our trip through the Petrified Forest and Painted Desert.

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Meeting Highlights ~

Information from unofficial minutes

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

Select Board ~ 3/1/16 ~ Emergency Meeting

Present were Board members Laurie Phillips and Matt Patry as well as Gail Fallar- Board Assistant

Matt called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM at the Community Center. Matt and Laurie were present for counting ballots for town meeting and when it was determined that Eric Buffum was elected road commissioner, the Board called him to see if he would be available the next day as a snow storm was predicted. Eric advised that he had not submitted his two week notice to his current employer and inquired about compensation.

Board decided to ask Kevin Ruane to continue as road foreman until Eric was available. Kevin was called and he agreed to fill in.

Board decided to hold an emergency meeting on March 2, 2016 to discuss compensation with Eric.

Select Board ~ 3/2/16 ~ Emergency Meeting

Present were Board members Laurie Phillips, Frank Sears, and Matt Patry, as well as Eric Buffum, Cathy Reynolds, and Gail Fallar- Board Assistant

Matt called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Board entered executive session to discuss personnel issues, present were Matt, Laurie, Frank, Gail and Cathy (for a few minutes). Board exited at 5:20.

Matt reviewed Personnel Practice, explaining salary, health and dental insurance benefits, retirement, vacation and holidays, etc. and that the Board considers compensation as a package deal. Board answered questions, discussed overtime (mostly winter during storms), advised that the one ton truck is available to the road commissioner for town work, and noted that training is available.

Board also discussed possibility of a laptop or tablet for use of the highway department – Gail advised the Town has road related software available via last year's Better Back Road's highway inventory grant.

Eric advised that he needed to give two weeks notice to his current employer, and wanted a day to think everything out. (He called Matt about an hour later and accepted.)

Matt advised that he had a conflict with the regular March Board meeting, so it was changed to Tuesday the 8th.

Select Board ~ 3/8/16 ~

Present were Board members Laurie Phillips, Frank Sears, and Matt Patry, as well as Grant Reynolds, Jo Reynolds, Kim Harbaugh, Eric Buffum, Cathy Reynolds, Tyler Dana, Doug Fontein, Hollis Squier (for 5 minutes), Rob Noble at 8:30 (for 10 minutes), and Gail Fallar- Board Assistant.

Hollis advised that he was willing to mentor the new road commissioner: how to use the road grader, discuss basic ins and outs of taking care of the roads, etc. Board expressed an interest in him being compensated.

Board re-organized for the year as follows:

Chair – Matt Patry; Regular Monthly Meeting – 2nd Thursday at 7:00; Newspaper of Record – Rutland Daily Herald; Adopted Robert's Rules for Small Boards; Designated the Chair (Matt) to sign Bills and Orders; Authorized Matt to sign overweight truck permits; Appointed Frank to the Community Center Board.

Eric advised he was taking a flagging class on Monday next and would start work that Wednesday.

Gail updated Board on status of progress complying with concerns raised in the Safety Report – Matt noted that it has been neglected for some time and needed catching up.

Board approved applying for a state paving grant for Route 140 north of the center (past Valentines).

Cat Yoder provided the Board with a list of delinquent properties and requested permission to proceed to tax sale – Doug Baker, Russell Dunham et al, Anita Rogers, Maurice and Adelina Healy, Frank W. Whitcomb Construction, and Fairfield Whiting. Board granted request.

Cathy provided information regarding the town's website; webmaster Walter Deinzer (who has done a great job) has retired to Arizona and wishes that someone local take over. It needs upgrading so that local folks can upload and update data without have to run most everything past the webmaster. The website committee, Cathy, Nancy Birdsall and Gail Fallar, wrote an RFP for the upgrade – two bids were received (one was late). They would like the Board's approval to interview and hire someone to work on it, two phases, one for this fiscal year and phase two after July 1st. They anticipate a new format – will post a survey on Front Porch Forum to ask for input – that will allow for local editing and management. Minutes and agendas are supposed to be posted to the website. After discussion, Board voted to authorize the Website Committee to interview/hire a new webmaster.

Tyler, who was elected by write-in votes as 2nd Constable, advised that he ran for the post (without telling family) as he wanted to become more involved with the community and was willing to handle dog issues. Board thanked him. Board authorized Tyler to kennel strays at his house.

Grant, Chair of the Old Creamery Committee, asked the Board to forgive the loan repayment from the Town's Capitol Building and Repair Fund, as voters at town meeting in non-binding action decided that the Select Board should authorize the expenditure from the Fund and not require the OCC to repay it.

Matt noted that caution was needed – two years ago voters decided not to spend money on the building. Grant replied that was a request for \$25,000 to match grants and

voters at that meeting wanted a plan. The OCC has done much to stabilize the building with volunteer help and donations, and the porch was the next step. Frank raised concerns with lack of power, water and septic, and a plan for use.

Grant advised that the building is an important part of Tinmouth's Historic District – that the plan was to stabilize (done), build the porch (which will be available for use immediately) to help fund raise for more work on the exterior (south wall foundation and siding-replacing the roof-etc.); interior work is a much bigger project – still a long way away.

Cathy reminded everyone that the Old Fire House was re-stored bit by bit and now is frequently used. The Town budgets money each year for the Capital Fund \$5,000 each from the highway and general budget and one of the intents of the fund is to maintain town buildings (the other is to build a salted sand shed one day).

After much discussion, the Board decided to warn it as a separate article for an upcoming special town meeting needed to dissolve the Inter-local Contract between the Town and School District.

Gail explained the Inter-local Contract issue – voters had approved it following the construction of the Community Center in 2000 to allow for both town and school use, it created a Community Center Board to oversee it. With the vote to merge the Tinmouth School District (TSD) with Clarendon, Shrewsbury and Wallingford into a new union district, the TSD disappears. The contract contains language that voters have to approve major changes and dissolution is one of them.

Grant noted that if nothing was done, the new union district would take over from TSD, but then their voters would get to decide on Tinmouth issues, better to do it now, so that the Town and TSD could create a new agreement for oversight, maintenance, use, etc.

There was general discussion about whether the new district would maintain the buildings as well as the town and school have done. Cathy expressed concerns with keeping the Community Center accessible for town uses.

Gail advised that the Select Board, School Board and Community Center Board needed to meet to discuss options and plan for a special town meeting.

Board re-appointed Glenn W. Merrill as Fire Warden – he has served 55 years in that position. Board thanked him for his service.

Gail advised that the notice regarding the Town's transfer of conservation rights on 19 acres on the former Inkley property to Tinmouth Properties had produced no comments. Board again authorized Matt to sign any necessary paperwork regarding the transfer.

Rob advised the Tinmouth Community Church had purchased a sign to let folks know about special events – like Easter breakfast – which can also be used for community events – like the game supper – is movable

(not permanent) and he would like to place it on the town green. Grant objected that it would be on the school's playground. After brief discussion, Board voted to allow the sign to be placed on the town green or on the road side of the fence (Rob to consult and work with the school principal and road commissioner).

Board decided to renew FAS's contract for lawn care for the town, school and playground. Their proposal was to keep the rates the same as last year.

Matt reported that six people had volunteered to serve on a Personnel Policy Committee. He had asked for volunteers at town meeting. One task he has for them is to research what other towns are providing for benefits for employees, who is eligible, whether retirees are covered, etc. Laurie noted that the Vermont League of Cities and Towns has a model Personnel Policy that would be a good place to start. Board voted to create a Personnel Policy Committee and to appoint Stan Wilbur, Judi Fox, Amy Martone, Michael Fannin, Cathy Reynolds, and Pat Psholka. The Board would like a recommendation from the Committee by June for adoption for the new fiscal year which starts on July first. Laurie volunteered to be a non-voting ex-officio member to represent the Select Board. Matt volunteered to contact them all and set up a joint meeting with the Select Board.

Board made annual appointments. Board will ask Gregg Casey if he is interested in continuing to serve in various capacities. Board needs to check to see if Bob Lloyd can continue to serve on the Board of Adjustment – he can serve on the Planning Commission even though he moved out of town.

Gail explained the \$500 increase in the budget for the Select Board Assistant for next fiscal year. She had added it as that line was overspent in FY15 and well on its way for the current year. She did not point it out directly to the Select Board at budget time and a question arose about it. She noted that the pay is hourly not salary, and that in the past she had stayed within the budgeted amount by not charging for her time once that had been reached. That is no longer the practice, time worked should be time paid. No comment from the Board.

Gail explained how the Town's Personnel Practice regarding health insurance coverage had changed over time – first only covering employees, then allowing them to pay for spouse or partner, then switching to a plan with a high deductible and an HSA, covering employees and spouses or partners and then switching to covering employees and spouses only.

Doug congratulated Frank, Eric, and Tyler, thanked the Select Board for the \$100 for the outhouse at the town's camp in the Purchase and thanked Frank for his donation of the lumber for it.

Matt requested the Board move its regular meeting for April, from the 14th to the 7th. All agreed.

Board voted to reimburse Gail for the Gift Certificate and golf balls presented to Hollis at Town Meeting.

Kim inquired about the gate at the town garage/transfer station, had it been moved? Gail noted that it is locked most of the time – exception being when the road crew is in and out during a storm. The Solid Waste and Recycling Committee is trying to find a solution.

Select Board and Personnel Policy Committee ~ 3/24/16

Select Board members present: Laurie Phillips, Frank Sears, and Matt Patry

Personnel Policy Committee members present: Stan Wilbur, Judi Fox, Amy Martone, Michael Fannin, Cathy Reynolds, and Pat Psholka

Others present: Gail Fallar- Board Assistant

Matt called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He thanked members of the PPC for being willing to serve and provided handouts that included information from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) regarding benefits provided to employees. Everyone introduced themselves and their spoke about their experience and expertise.

Matt advised that Hollis Squier asked the Select Board in July (when he provided notice of his retirement on December 31, 2015) if it was possible for the Town to cover his health insurance until he reached age 65 and would then be eligible for Medicare. Board took it under advisement – the Personnel Practice did not speak to retirement issues and there was no “policy”. He wants this Committee to look at more than just this issue. The Select Board wants to adopt a policy and wants to know what other towns are providing, if anything, for retirees, and how to proceed in the future.

There was discussion about elected versus hired employees - road commissioner, town clerk and treasurer are elected positions, there is one full time hired position (road crew member) and several part time workers. VLCT has a model Personnel Policy and an addendum for elected officials to sign regarding compliance with the Policy. Members decided to work on a general policy and deal with elected versus hired at a later date.

Gail requested the Committee speak with current employees regarding development of a new practice/policy, adding that job descriptions should be included.

Members discussed benefit package, it has been past practice to look at the overall compensation for employees. There could be parts of the policy that are set annually – insurance, salary, hourly rates.

Select Board members are ex-officio members of the PPC. The PPC was appointed by the Select Board and must comply with the state’s Open Meeting law – warned meetings, minutes taken, etc. Amy was elected Chair, Cathy was elected Secretary.

Matt noted that the Board would like a recommendation from the Committee by June for adoption for the new fiscal year which starts on July 1st.

Members discussed developing a work plan, Amy volunteered to tackle that. Judi volunteered to research health insurance options for the next meeting. They will review the VLCT’s model policy and discuss at the next meeting what issues are okay and which need more research or modification to Tinmouth circumstances. Employees will be invited to speak to the Committee once a draft has been crafted.

One member expressed concern that the overall package needs to remain the same; another said the budget should not be balanced on the backs of employees.

Matt again thanked everyone for their willingness to serve, noting that everyone’s time is precious.

Select Board ~ School Board ~ Community Center Board ~ Joint Meeting on 3/31/16

Present were:

Select Board members: Frank Sears, and Matt Patry

School Board members: Grant Reynolds, Sarah Graham, and Alison Alexander

Community Center Board members: Frank Sears and Grant Reynolds

Others: Gail Fallar- Board Assistant

Gail explained the need for the meeting – with the new school merger taking effect on July 1st the Tinmouth School District (TSD) will disappear. There was an Inter-local Contract between the Town and the TSD regarding the Community Center approved by voters in 2001 that needs to be dissolved by voters so that a new agreement can be made between the Town (who now owns the school and the community center) and the TSD that will carry over for to the new union district. Both Town and School voters need to approve dissolution.

Members discussed time frame, possible dates – Monday May 9th was first choice, Saturday May 15th was second choice – though some members could not make that date.

The Select Board decided to also add an article regarding funding for the old creamery porch whether voters would authorize \$4,200 from the Town’s Capitol Building and Repair Fund.

Cathy advised that this was an opportunity to re-think the decisions made at the December Special Town Meeting regarding the School’s Tax Stabilization Fund. Voters had authorized the transfer 75% to the Town for an endowed building maintenance fund to be used if the school was to stop being used for educational purposes and 25% to go the Tinmouth Community Scholarship Fund. That would leave a large pot of money unavailable for other town buildings. She suggested rescinding that vote and adding an another article that the money (75%) be transferred to the Town’s Capitol Building and Repair

Fund for use for any town building and 25% to the Tinnmouth Community Scholarship Fund.

Discussion ensued about long term maintenance that would be expected of the new union district, whether the highway department could or should have access to the funds, monies that had been place in the Tax Stabilization Fund – whether they were local tax payers dollars or state property tax dollars, etc. In the end, members decided to add articles to both the town and school warnings asking to rescind the December votes regarding the Tax Stabilization Fund and asking to redistribute the funds 75% to the Town’s Capitol Building and Repair Fund and 25% to the Tinnmouth Community Scholarship Fund.

Both the Select Board and the School Board voted to add these additional articles to the warning, having been moved and seconded, all were in favor.

Members then reviewed and discussed the new draft agreement between the Town and the School District regarding use of the Community Center. This agreement does not have to be approved by voters. There was discussion as to whether the school building needed to be added as it is now a town building – there is a deed from the school to the town regarding ownership and maintenance – members will ponder, Gail make seek a legal opinion. Under the agreement the Community Center Board would have oversight of repairs and maintenance.

Select Board ~ 4/7/16

Present were Board members Laurie Phillips, Frank Sears, and Matt Patry, as well as Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Grant Reynolds, Tyler Dana, Alan Held at 7:30, and Gail Fallar- Board Assistant.

Reviewed agenda – added Alan Held and County Sheriff. Approved minutes of 3/1/16; 3/2/16; 3/8/16; 3/24/16; and 3/31/16.

Eric reported all is going well. He advised that there is a problem area on McCoy Road where the road is sliding into the Wells Brook. He has contacted the state stream alteration guy, we’ll need a permit to fix it, he asked Dan Allard for an estimate to provide information to apply for a state grant – it will need huge stones on the bottom, followed by large stones and then smaller stones, as well as a culvert. Josh Carvajal, the state river engineer thought it might cost \$50,000 to fix it. Board will advertise the project if the town gets a grant.

Eric also reported he had fixed the water pump on the loader, its radiator needs to be re-cored if the town is going to keep it. He has been looking for a used backhoe – needs one with a clean-up bucket and thumb. Board inquired about federal or state surplus equipment. Do we need a new loader or backhoe?

Eric noted he is working on a maintenance program; the one ton will need new tires before winter. He inquired about the town purchasing a wood chipper, Board asked

that he obtain information for the next meeting. He also inquired about another chain saw, chaps and helmets. Laurie has the bid information – chainsaws from Charlie White and chaps and helmets from David Birdsall. Board vote to purchase the chain saws, chaps and helmets.

Eric and Board discussed more tools needed (no vise grips, power washer needs nozzles, etc.) Eric and Laurie will meet to work on second round of tools/small equipment needed.

Also discussed lack of office space at the garage, advised that a number of the items on the inspection list had been completed or would soon be done.

He requested the road crew be able to work four 10 hour days during the summer – sometimes a project needs a couple more hours to complete and it is more efficient to keep going than to stop and have to start over the next day. Board approved as long as work was getting done and someone was on call in case of a storm.

Alan expressed concern with Green Mountain Power’s recent advertisement regarding herbicide spraying along its power lines. The ad advised that landowners who wish to not have it applied on their property to contact GMP. Alan felt the environment and water quality was at risk and that the Town should ban GMP from the practice in the whole town. He asked that it be placed on the warning for the upcoming special town meeting. The Board advised that the warning had already been signed, but the Alan could bring it up at the meeting under other business. Board asked Assistant to research whether the Town had the authority to act in the capacity to ban GMP’s practice town wide.

Board discussed roadside mowing – in the past the Town rented Hollis’s tractor and mower and paid him regular salary. Board is willing to hire him as a sub-contractor, not as an employee.

Board signed the Rutland Town Resolution regarding municipal authority for solar project siting. (Board had approved it at its January 21,2016 meeting, but hadn’t signed it.)

Board briefly discussed the Equipment Fund, need to meet to discuss details regarding what needs to be replaced when, funding, etc.

Board asked that vacancies be posted to *Tales of Tinnmouth* – SWAC, SWARC, deputy tree warden, old creamery committee – as the former holder of those positions declined to continue to serve. Frank volunteered to represent the Town on the Milfoil Executive Board.

Select Board ~ 5/19/16

Present were Board members Matt Patry, Laurie Phillips, and Frank Sears, as well as Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Hollis Squier, Larry and Cris Carabeau, Jan Krantz, and Gail Fallar- Board Assistant.

Reviewed agenda – added lap top computer, gravel for

old creamery, transfer station inspection, electronic recycling collection, and SWAC appointment

Eric reported the road crew has been busy grading and graveling back roads. He mentioned the need for an excavator; several surrounding towns now have them. He also looked into a wood chipper – there is a used one available for just under \$10,000 – renting them costs \$275 per day, but those are not sturdy enough. Laurie raised a concern about equipment just setting, Eric noted that it could help fill in the time schedule and was more efficient than piling it in the truck and hauling it to the town garage. A new backhoe set up as needed might cost \$135,000. Board decided it needs more information and a plan, they will appoint a committee to make recommendations regarding equipment replacement. (Board will look for volunteers.)

Board reviewed driveway applications from the Carabeaus. Approved three with conditions, one near the old Capron place – doesn't need a culvert, the other two are on the old Valentine farm – both need culverts, one will replace two.

Gail reported that the town did not receive a paving grant this year, but was advised that more than likely would be in line for next year. Board decided to skip over area that needs reconstruction and pave up through Crampton's woods on Rte 140, near the intersection of Rte 140 and North End Road. Paving bids will be due June 9th.

The town did receive a grant for dump locks (a safety device for working on dump trucks) from VLCT PACIF – the town's insurance company. They will pay half.

Board was updated on the progress with the safety inspection, electrical work is all done, furnace has been cleaned, still working on moving the chimney.

Board discussed roadside mowing – Hollis advised he was willing to work as a town employee and charge rent for the equipment as in the past, noting his mower could mow wider and faster than a brush hog. Laurie expressed concern with the tractor lacking safety features like a roll bar/cage and the town's liability. It may be exempt due to its age, this will be researched. Hollis is still waiting for an insurance quote to be a sub contractor.

Board read letter from Terry McGann. He expressed concern about water in the ditch on his property on Tinnmouth Pond Road. Eric noted that water does not run uphill and that there is a wetland nearby. Hollis added that it had been that way for years, Board took no action.

Board reviewed two quotes for a lap top computer for the road crew, Board voted approve the purchase from Staples along with a 2 year warranty.

Gail, on behalf of the Old Creamery Committee, requested the town haul a load of gravel for use under the new porch, and that the school and community center all needed some as well. The OCC will pay for the gravel, and all the buildings belong to the town. Board approved.

Gail reported that the transfer station had been

inspected by the state, no written report yet, but the issue of the gate being locked re-emerged and the tarp needs replacing. Eric advised that Middletown Springs has two dumpsters with compactors and their road crew does not have to do anything (such as move paper gaylords, compact the trash with the backhoe, etc.). Board will have the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee look into it.

Board appointed Wheaton Squier as Tinnmouth's representative to the Solid Waste Alliance Communities.

Board approved collecting electronics – have to wait for gaylords- if computer stuff is sorted/separated the town will be paid for that. One bin will be for computer components, another for other electrical gadgets.

Some folks have been mowing their lawns onto and leaving the grass clippings on the road. This is a safety concern, Board will write a letter advising them to stop. Another person is filling the ditch with leaves and grass clippings, they too will be sent a letter.

It was also reported that someone is burning trash near Rte 140 and Rte 133. They will be sent a letter to stop as it is illegal to burn trash.

Board signed Warrant for unlicensed dogs. Constables and Animal Control Officer may now round them up.

Board discussed request from the State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation regarding amending a 1985 easement to include the conservation of 10.1 acres (house lot 8) in the Tinnmouth Mountain Land Condominium. There are currently hundreds of acres conserved there; this is a separate lot that was not, and it is now being added to the common land. Board voted to approve the proposed amendment and protection of the 10.1 acres. The state is involved as they hold the restrictions as well as the Vermont Land Trust for the entire property.

Board approved and signed the Agreement with the Tinnmouth School District involving the use of the Community Center. This replaced the interlocal contract recently dissolved by a special town meeting.

Board voted to approve the LEOP (Local Emergency Operations Plan) for 2016, as prepared by Michael Fannin.

Board created and approved two classes for disability insurance benefits, Class 1 for all full time highway employees and Class 2 for full time town office employees, effective March 1, 2016. Employees must work 30 hours per week to qualify.

Laurie reported that chainsaw chaps and helmets have been purchased – they are good for five years unless they get dinged and then they have to be replaced. Vise grips, can for oily rags and tag-out/lock-out equipment have been purchased. Still working on list of tools needed. Frank inquired about the tool inventory; Laurie will meet with Eric to keep working on it.

Matt expressed appreciation to Holly Noble for stepping in as moderator for the special town and school town meetings held in early May.

School Board ~ 3/9/16

Present were members Grant Reynolds, Alison Alexander, and Sarah Graham, as well as Dave Younce - RSSU Superintendent, Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker-Principal, Cathy Reynolds, Jo Reynolds, and Gail Fallar – Treasurer and temporary scribe

Dave called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm for the purpose of re-organization. Grant was duly elected Chair, Alison was duly elected Vice Chair and Sarah was duly elected Clerk.

Grant assumed the Chair, Board continued re-organization as follows: regular meeting is the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00; warnings shall be posted at the school, town office, community center and community church; newspaper of record is the Rutland Dailey Herald; bank is TD Bank; truant officer – Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker, Principal; affirmed Robert's Rules for Small Boards; authorized Grant to sign warrants; and appointed Grant to the Community Center Board.

Board reviewed agenda – added lawn care and letter to the Board.

Superintendent's Report ~ Dave provided copies of FY17 school calendar – collaborative effort among regional Superintendents sending students to Stafford Tech – and explained changes. He also announced the name of the new union school district – chosen by an online survey – Mill River Union School District.

Principal's Report ~ Maureen further explained her written report – O'Raine and Sun will be painting the old section of the school; new shutters are being constructed for the south wall windows; curriculum development continues; school trip to Sturbridge Village; grades 5/6 are going to Boston for their class trip; 3 year olds will be able to attend full time next year – still working out details.

Business Manager Stan Pawlacyzk emailed financial report, sent copies of official FY15 audit.

Gail advised that F.A.S., the company that mowed the lawn and ball field last year, had offered to continue the service for the same rates this year. Board approved.

Board discussed draft agreement to replace the Interlocal Contract between the Town and School approved by voters regarding use of the Community Center. Meeting between Select Board, School Board and Community Center Board has been scheduled for 3/31/16.

Dave thanked Grant for his work regarding the merger, new Board will meet 1st and 3^d Wednesdays, rotating from school to school

Board voted to authorize Grant to sign teacher contracts, new bargaining agreements are still in progress (need to be ratified).

Cathy spoke to the Board about energy efficiency measures – reviewed history of additions, from 1985 through the community center – there are 7 thermostats that are 20-30 years old – need to be updated – new ones

can be programmed for school breaks – wifi activated to return to regular program from a cell phone – Efficiency Vermont has a program regarding fossil fuel savings that could save \$1,000 per year . Alison raised concerns with wifi emissions – Board took under advisement – will consider before next winter. Maureen did note that the wifi boxes had been moved up to the ceiling in each classroom.

Cathy also expressed concern with community use of the Community Center once the new merger takes place. Shared use with community members is very important to maintain, new agreement is important, school needs to be responsible for all maintenance as the predominance of use is by the school. Dave expressed concern with school liability while it was being used by others. Cathy noted that users have to sign a rental agreement, there are fees for certain users like the Contra Dances, there is a building manager that oversees clean up, and only Tinmouth residents and property owners are allowed to use/rent.

Board read letter from Tracy Baker concerning her daughter and their request to be able to transfer from one private school to another and still be grandfathered regarding school choice. Board acknowledged the student is grandfathered in regards to the new merger, Dave will respond.

Board moved into executive session to discuss teacher contract negotiations at 8:45 PM, exited at 9:00, no action taken.

School Board ~ 3/22/16 ~ Emergency Meeting *(with thanks to Grant Reynolds, Chair)*

5:15 PM 45 Mountain View Road, Tinmouth VT
Present: Grant Reynolds, Chair; Alison Alexander, member. Public: Jo Reynolds

Meeting called to order at 5:15. Grant explained that Tinmouth was the last Board to approve the SU-wide teachers' contract for 2015-1017 (current year and next school year). On approval, the Business Manager will start the process of increasing current year paychecks and calculating lump sum payments covering the difference between the 2014-15 salaries now being paid and 2015-2016 salaries, as established in the contract. Total cost increase for the entire SU is 3.25%, though it may vary slightly by town. It is within the funds available. We did not have a quorum at the meeting that was warned for March 21. Our next monthly meeting is not until April 8, so it's important that we move on this immediately.

Board voted to approve the SU-wide teacher's contract. Both signed the contract. Meeting adjourned by consensus at 5:25.

School Board ~ 3/31/16 Please see Select Board minutes for that date as it was a joint meeting.

School Board ~ 4/13/16

Present were members Grant Reynolds, Alison Alexander, and Sarah Graham, as well as Dave Younce - RSSU Superintendent, Stan Pawlaczyk -RSSU Business Manager, Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker-Principal, Kris Kristensen - Special Educator, Tracy Carey, Jo Reynolds, Frank Sears, and Gail Fallar – Treasurer and temporary scribe

Grant re-arranged the agenda to allow Tracy to speak first. She presented the Board with a letter and maps showing the location of her house on her property that straddles the Tinmouth Danby town line. She advised that her house is 13 miles from the school and that it takes about half an hour each way to drop off and pick up her two children. One is in 6th grade this year, the other in 5th and she would like to have opportunity to send them to Manchester elementary and Burr and Burton for grades 7-12 as her husband works in Manchester. The bus ride (if Danby would provide transportation) would be 1 ½ hour each way if the kids had to attend Mill River. If she drove them, it would cost over \$2,400 per year just for gas, and 2 ½ hours of her time each day. She asked that the Board consider this appeal as a special circumstance due to their distant location. The location of the town line on her survey says “approximate”, the house is very near or may be on the line – and so the question was discussed as to whether the house was in Tinmouth or Danby.

Grant advised that the Danby~Tinmouth town line had been surveyed in the late 1800’s, but both towns rejected it at their respective town meetings. An accurate survey would be needed to determine the location of the house.

Dave advised that the new Union School Board would be organizing in May, and that he would consider adding the question to the agenda for its June meeting. They officially take over on July 1st.

Superintendent’s Report ~ Dave reported that the internal elementary student transfer between schools would remain the same for the next year. It will be revamped in the coming year due to the new union district. Board voted to authorize Grant to approve and sign any necessary paperwork related to that program. He also noted that he had been busy getting things settled for the new merger.

Principal’s Report ~ Maureen provided a building maintenance schedule, water emergency list that needed updating, reported that exterior painting would occur in July, and that the Spring Concert was a huge success.

Business Manager’s Report ~ Stan provided a financial report – not much change from February. The hot lunch program is over budget, will need to be addressed. He and Gail need to get together to work out transfer of funds regarding the tax stabilization fund and the general fund. He asked Sarah and Alison if they wanted to be paid their yearly stipends, and as the pay period is from March to

March if the Board wanted to be paid to the end of the fiscal year. After brief discussion, they decided to accept the pay and then donate it to the Activity Fund.

Dave updated the Board regarding the merger ~ Secretary of State has officially designated the new district the Mill River Unified Union School District, its organizational meeting will occur on May 12th – mostly ceremonial (Gail will need to attend with a Tinmouth voter checklist to ensure only eligible voters participate). SU staff are working diligently to get everything in order for July 1st, from domain names to insurance coverage. He also advised that the RSSU staff will be moving to office space at Mill River High School late summer and fall.

Board discussed the proposed new agreement between the Town and the School District regarding the use of the Community Center – Gail wondered if the school building could be included as well. Board advised her to contact Gary Kuperfer, Esq. for advice. The new agreement will be needed following the special school and town meeting on May 9th, where the current inter-local contract should be dissolved.

Board discussed energy efficient thermostats – Maureen advised that she will turn current ones down and re-set them before and after school vacations, etc.

School Board ~ 5/11/16

Present were members Grant Reynolds, Alison Alexander, and Sarah Graham, as well as Dave Younce - RSSU Superintendent, Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker-Principal, Allyn Kahle- TES Educator, Jo Reynolds, and Gail Fallar – Treasurer and temporary scribe

Agenda was reviewed, added request from Gail to take picture of the last TES Board for next year’s town report, and request from Maureen to transfer funds.

Superintendent’s Report~ Dave provided a written report as well as asking that the Board authorize Grant to sign contracts for next year and paperwork for this year’s contracts with changes due to contract negotiations ratified earlier. Board voted to make it so. He reminded the Board of the organizational meeting of the new school district – May 12th at 5:30, and presented the Board with a thank-you gift of appreciation for their work as a member of RSSU and the newly formed MRUUSD.

Principal’s Report~ Maureen provided a written report noting the Wanda the custodian would continue work repairing floor tiles during summer break; O’Raine & Sun will paint the exterior of the old school in July; and that the Revised Total Coli-form Sampling Plan submitted to the state by Dennis Williams of Presidential Waters was approved. She also noted that state required math testing was done and science testing would occur soon. Full time kindergarten information has been posted to Front Porch Forum and emailed, as well as information about the PreK Program. 6th Grade graduation will be on June 3rd; 5/6 grade trip to Boston will be on May 26th; grades 3-6 will

visit Sturbridge Village on June 7th and PreK-grade 2 will visit Billings Museum that same day. The school picnic is scheduled for June 9th with thanks to the Parker family for use of their facilities at Tinmouth Pond. She also reported that Marshall Squier, Fire Chief of the Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department would be conducting a live fire drill soon for younger students, with a whole school drill scheduled for next fall.

Dave noted that anyone with questions about Pre-K enrollment for the next school year should be directed to the SU's website for details. This SU has open boundaries, meaning any PreK student will have dollars following them anywhere in the state. Some SU's have established boundaries of their SU, meaning that students in that SU could only attend pre-school in that SU.

Maureen presented the Board with TES T-shirts, which they promptly donned and Gail took a photo of the last TES Board for posterity, and inclusion in next year's town report. Maureen also thanked the Board for their work.

Grant signed staff contracts presented by Dave.

Merger issues – after brief discussion, Board voted to convey and transfer all personal property of the Tinmouth Town School District to the Mill River Unified Union School District for \$1.00 effective July 1, 2016 and authorized Grant to sign any necessary paperwork. This included school items contained in the Community Center - kitchen (freezer/refrigerator), Art/Music Room, Phys Ed, etc. Maureen was asked to prepare a list of assets to avoid any confusion in the future.

Agreement between the Tinmouth Town School District and the Town of Tinmouth regarding future use of the Community Center was discussed, Board voted to approve draft created by Grant, and signed it. There will also be an agreement for between the Town and School District regarding use the school buildings.

Maureen requested the Board transfer \$365.01 from the school general fund to the after school program to cover supplies needed for this fiscal year. Board voted to approve the transfer, all voted in favor.

Board set next meeting for June 3rd at 5:30 – preceding graduation (mainly to consider agreement between the town and school in regards to the use of school buildings).

Planning Commission ~ 3/28/16

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

Annual Re-organization: Michael was re-elected as Chair (he advised it would be only for one more year), Bob was re-elected Vice Chair, and Gail was re-appointed Secretary. All were nominated, seconded and approved by voice vote, no other nominations having been made.

Hearing for Kathy's application to amend the Hepburn PRD Permit #2006-3 was called to order. Gail explained

the amendment was to resolve the issue of an arena being built that straddled property lines. The PC had approved a boundary adjustment in 2012, but as the conditions of that approval were not met, it became void, (5 of 8 conditions were met). This will allow Phil Hepburn, owner of Lot 7 to transfer .07 acres to the Estate of Faye Hepburn (Lot 4), which then allow the arena to set on just one lot (#4). Members discussed history of the PRD (Planned Unit Development) for new members, from the original in 2006 to 2012 when the arena was built to the current application.

Gail noted that as Zoning Administrator, she was not allowed to approve a boundary adjustment in this case, as Lot 7 would become non-conforming. It is smaller than subdivision regulations allow as it was part of the original PRD that provided for smaller lots to enable the farm to be conserved and as such was a conforming lot, transferring the land that the arena sits on would make it non-conforming and thus need PC approval. She also noted that issues involving the Vermont Land Trust and others involved in the original conservation were not the prerogative of the PC and should be left to those parties to resolve.

Kevin moved to approve, Vito 2nded, Bob recused himself as he was instrumental in the original PRD, application was approved by five voting in favor. Grant reminded Kathy that a Mylar of the approved survey had to be filed within 90 days.

Members expressed concern with future projects that dealt with affordable housing, given that the arena is located very close to the affordable housing lot, and that could affect its salability, and perhaps the conservation restrictions should include a clause to allow for small boundary adjustments (this one did not).

Members discussed Flood Resiliency language provided by the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, will review in detail at its April meeting.

Members discussed Grant's updated proposal for solar language for the Town Plan. It is troublesome to try to determine where commercial solar projects should be allowed versus where it should not. Hard to create a map, which landowners will be affected, some areas are visible from the road, some are not, some folks support solar development, some do not, will the recent upgrade of Green Mountain Power's 46,000 KW line allow for a substation and make it available for a local project to hook into it? What are other towns doing about solar development? Members decided to wait until the Legislature adjourns in May to see what might happen with solar and wind siting criteria, etc.

Planning Commission ~ 4/20/16

Present were members Vito Macaluso, Bob Lloyd, Grant Reynolds, Amanda Vumbaco, Kevin Ruane, and

Kim Harbaugh, as well as Barbara Noyes Pulling (Rutland Regional Planning Commission) and Gail Fallar, Sec.

Barbara explained that the PC needs to add a Flood Resiliency element to the Town Plan. It is now required by state law. There is a short version that identifies flood areas, stream banks and river corridors. The longer version would spell out measures the town can take to protect those areas (goals and action). Grant inquired whether an engineer would be required, Barbara replied that much of the information is readily available on the state's mapping system – Flood Ready Vermont- and on the Agency of Natural Resources maps. Members noted that the Tinmouth Channel (aka Clarendon River) is already protected by the town's Protection Zone as well as a 500 foot buffer area around the north end and 100 foot buffer around the southern end. The Poultney River starts in the Purchase as does Flower Brook which flows into the Mettowee River – these need to be addressed. Barbara noted that the current protection in the zoning regulations should be explained in the Town Plan. River corridor language is needed in the town plan as well as zoning regulations.

Members discussed process for amending the town plan – original goal was to add commercial solar project siting language – RRPC advised that the PC would need to at least briefly address flood resiliency in order to stay in compliance and approved by the RRPC. Ed Bove, Executive Director of RRPC had advised that they would help the PC through this process at no expense to the town. The town will hire RRPC for help with the five year update of the town plan after July 1st – there are a number of areas that need addressing – census, housing, inclusion of newly required elements, etc.

Barbara had reviewed the PC's proposed solar language, had a few suggestions, and advised that the RRPC was still trying to figure out how to advise towns given a recent Public Service Board decision regarding a solar project in Bennington. One decision says to be more specific, others have said town regulations were too specific. Need to address all energy projects, not just solar.

Members discussed whether to have a map showing areas where solar would be allowed, or how to describe them, Vito offered to take photos of the view sheds – Grant will assist. Bob noted that driving down a road is different than looking at a map. The PC needs to define what a good view shed is, develop criteria for it.

Work list for next meeting – Vito and Grant will take photographs; Grant will watch action in the Legislature; Bob will send VHCB criteria for solar development on conserved land; Grant will edit town plan solar language with Barbara's suggestions; and members will look over the flood resiliency information provided by RRPC.

Members thanked Barbara for her help.

Planning Commission ~ 5/25/16

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

Flood Resiliency - There is a short version that identifies flood areas, stream banks and river corridors, a map provided by the state will also be part of that. Members noted that the Tinmouth Channel (aka Clarendon River) is already protected by the town's Protection Zone as well as a 500 foot buffer area around the north end and 100 foot buffer around the southern end. The Poultney River starts in the Purchase (and flows north to Otter Creek), as does Flower Brook which flows southwesterly into the Mettowee River – these need to be addressed. River corridor language is needed as well.

Members discussed legislative action – or lack of it- regarding municipal ability to have input for commercial solar (and other renewable energy) projects. The Public Service Board has until October to come up with standards for towns and regional planning commissions to use for town and regional plans, but the funding for regional planning was not included in the final state budget.

Grant and Vito discussed draft map they had compiled showing areas “desirable” and areas “undesirable” for commercial solar projects – much discussion about landowners, all areas were located in the rural residential zoning district, what would a solar developer consider desirable (could be different for different companies), what regional planning commissions in Rutland and Bennington counties positions were, etc. Vito also showed view scape photos taken from several locations in town. In the end, members decided not to include a map or photos in this amendment process. They may be included when the major re-write of the town plan is done in the coming months.

Work list for next meeting – final review of proposed solar language and flood resiliency language for amendment of the Town Plan. Members felt strongly that the Town should do something now, to have some language in the plan, whether the Public Service Board considers it or not, it may be beneficial to prospective developers.

Next regular meeting will be Monday June 27, 2016, 7:30. The July meeting will be bumped to August 1st in hopes of holding a public hearing on the amendment of the Town Plan.

Conservation Commission ~ 3-21-16

With thanks to Carmen Fallar, Sec.

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

Annual re-organization: Election of Officers: Doug Fontein re-elected as Chair; Ann Czar elected as Vice Chair; Carmen Fallar re-elected as Secretary.

Addition to the Agenda – Potential dates for invasive species talk

Old Business ~

Ridge Trail ~ Kiosk photos look good. Acknowledgments need to be checked. Doug going to contact Donald Campbell from the Vermont Land Trust to find out if we need to include the VHCB. Blazing explanation sign was approved and will be added to the kiosk. Jo will paint the plywood background where these items are posted to make it more visibly appealing. Doug passed around the wording for the signs on either side of the Gilmore property, needs to be approved by the Gilmores. Members discussed adding arrows to funnel folks to the right trail on either side of Gilmore lot (decreasing the risk of anyone getting lost). Members would also like to put something in the kiosk about the disruption in the trail so hikers know what to expect at that point. Members have a work day on April 17, 2016.

Tinmouth Purchase Loop ~ Members discussed the need for policies on cabin use. Is there a cost to rent it? Do residents need to pay? Doug will draw up a draft. It will need to be run by the Select Board. Doug submitted a success story to the AVCC (Assoc. of Vermont Conservation Commissions) about the construction of the cabin. Ann will do one for the Ridge Trail.

New Business ~ Members discussed potential dates for invasive species talk. David Birdsall will discuss with speaker and determine the date. It will be publicized in the same places as the Bat Talk. Local news media, FPF, Tales, etc.

Carmen will work with Jeff to plan an outing on the Tinmouth Channel in April. Hoping to canoe or kayak one afternoon on a weekend in April.

Next meeting set for 4/17/16 during trail work day.

Conservation Commission ~ 4-21-16

With thanks to Carmen Fallar, Sec.

Present were members Doug Fontein, Jo Reynolds, Barbara Held, Ann Czar, Jeff Alexander, and Carmen Fallar.

Ridge Trail ~ Reviewed signs for Gilmore property. Marshall had them approved by the Gilmores. Probably making them aluminum, Doug thinks Staples can do this for us. The members are to think about any types of interpretive exhibits we might want along the trail. Rocks, tracks, trees, plants, etc...Members discussed a strategy for cutting the next section of trail beyond the Gilmores. The order agreed upon was Flag, Cut, Blaze. Members decided to put a sign up at Gilmores, "Temporarily Ends Here." Ann Czar wrote a success story about the Ridge Trail but she wants the group to read and proof it before she submits it online.

Tinmouth Mountain Cabin ~ Members reviewed the Use Policy item by item and Doug will make all the changes. It will be sent to anyone reserving the cabin and it

will be posted in the cabin. Members decided to call it "Tinmouth Mountain Cabin" in the Tinmouth Purchase Recreation Area. Jo will work with others to Blaze the Loop Trail all the same.

Invasive Species Talk ~ Doug will follow up with David to get a final confirmation on date and time with Lisa Thornton. As of now, it is scheduled for Monday, May 16th, at 6:30. Members need to find out a place to meet. Carmen will take care of the PR for this event.

Green Up~

Members agreed to take on a more involved role with the event. Doug will give out supplies at 9am at the Transfer Station. He will check with Nelson about coordinating with the school for Friday activities. Members will give out Green Up bags at the Plant Sale since they fall on the same day. Jeff and Doug will coordinate a raffle for all bags turned in on Saturday during Green Up hours. Gail will be asked to encourage folks who pick up bags early to join in the Saturday festivities of prizes and ice cream. Members discussed a possible "hot spot" early green up on some area roads in town (North End Road for example).

Right of Way Herbicide Spraying ~

The Conservation Commission will support any efforts to work to ban the use of herbicides from utilities in the rights of way. Shrewsbury has a ban on such use.

Old Creamery Committee ~ 5/14/16

Present were members Vito Macaluso, Stan Wilbur, Grant Reynolds, Doug Fontein and Michael Fallar, as well as Ken Krantz, Cathy Reynolds and Gail Fallar.

Ken had been working on the new porch, needed to know what color the roofing would be and what material. After discussion, members decided to use standing seam in the color of slate grey. There was concern raised about the slate falling off the old roof and/or damage to the new roof when the slate is removed and replaced. Members felt precautions could be taken to prevent that.

Also discussed was the "floor" of the porch. It is dirt and grass at the present. Some members wanted sure-pack, others wanted small screened gravel. Gail to ask the Select Board if the road crew can transport – the OCC will pay for the gravel – also need some at the Community Center and at the School. Members will have a work day to spread the gravel and do a general exterior clean-up.

Members felt there needs to be a written plan to clarify proposed phases of work, long term and short term, for restoring this building that is part of the fabric of the historic village. Short term is to continue working on the exterior-walls, foundation, and roof. Long term would be to work on the interior for various uses.

Cathy suggested building a community pizza oven – there are several folks who have done it elsewhere. Have a gathering once or twice a month to get together to make pizza to share – still in the 'idea' stage.

Community Center Board ~ 3/31/16 ~ Please see Select Board minutes, as it was a joint meeting with the Select Board, School Board and Community Center Board.

Personnel Policy Committee ~ 3/24/16 ~ Please see Select Board minutes, as it was a joint meeting.

Personnel Policy Committee ~ 4/14/16
(With thanks to Cathy Reynolds, Sec.)

Present were *Select Board* members Laurie Phillips and Frank Sears; *Personnel Policy Committee* members Stan Wilbur, Judi Fox, Amy Martone, Cathy Reynolds, and Pat Psholka, as well as Gail Fallar- Board Assistant

Members reviewed the work plan.

Discussed who the plan applies to. Cathy provided some language on this issue that she pulled from the VLCT (Vermont League of Cities and Towns). Gail provided a listing of employees with their weekly hours per week.

Ron is the only full time employee who is not elected. Stan suggested that we need to review the whole policy and determine the parts that we feel are important, regardless of the number of employees that the policy applies to.

We agreed to run through the entire template and determine which parts to keep and which parts to eliminate.

The VLCT model personnel policy template was reviewed and edited for sections 1-6.

Health Benefits Presentation was made by Judi Fox including a print out of the Vermont Health Connect 2016 Plan Design. Subsidies provided by Vermont Health Connect were reviewed. There are two types of subsidies, premium subsidy which pays a portion of the monthly premium. There is also a deductible and co-pay subsidy which is available for enrollees in the silver or bronze plans.

Town offers BCBS Platinum with premium of \$656 single and \$1313 for a family. Judi provided some estimates for premiums through Health Connect. If the Town did not provide the Health Insurance, we could provide a Health Insurance Package that could be used to pay for insurance on VT Health Connect and the employee could choose their plan. We will need to figure out the mechanism for this approach.

HSA (Health Savings Account) is a fixed amount annually, if not used, the money belongs to the employee.

HRA (Health Reimbursement Account) is a promise to pay the deductible up to an amount, if needed. If not the Town keeps the money.

Judi reviewed an alternate approach where the Town would pay an annual allotment for insurance and each employee would pick their own plan.

Employee feedback will be needed when we determine what our recommendations for health insurance are.

Personnel Policy Committee ~ 5/19/16
(with thanks to Cathy Reynolds, Sec.)

Present were *Select Board* member Laurie Phillips; *Personnel Policy Committee* members Stan Wilbur, Judi Fox, Amy Martone, Cathy Reynolds, Pat Psholka, and Michael Fannin, as well as Gail Fallar- Board Assistant.

Reviewed the work plan. Commenced review with section 7, continued through section 16, skipped 17, and did 18. Commence at next meeting.

Section 7-The committee notes that the Select Board has informally created the position of substitute truck driver to allow for redundancy in staff, and emergencies. Committee recommends formalizing this position and creating a back-up list for emergencies. Substitutes should be named drivers under our insurance policy and included in the random drug test list and possess a valid CDL.

The Committee recommends that the Select Board update the *Commercial Motor Vehicle Drug and Alcohol Policy* as required by law. Cathy will contact the League to get an updated copy of their policy for review.

The Committee suggests that the Select Board perform annual performance evaluations for each employee. This is an excellent tool for giving feedback to employees and to assist employees in setting goals for each employee. Cathy will search for a template to provide to the Select Board.

The Committee recommends that the public access computer be removed from the regular workspace of the Town, and that the computer not have any link or connection to the official Town computer system. It should be located at a separate designated workspace. The committee recommends that the Town ask for a suitable donated machine more current than our current machine. A second guest Wifi network is recommended. Securing the current town office Wifi with a password is recommended. Gail will talk to Jonathan Czar for advice.

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

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

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: 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.

Reviewed 10 grant applications for Community Fund grants. Discussion ensued.

If all ten proposals are funded, that would be \$5000. We would not have to draw any funds from the TCF because we have enough in the bank to cover this amount.

Board approved all.

Setting grants for higher ed scholarships: \$36,000 is available. Last year we allocated \$10,000 and awarded \$9,500. With the money we raised in the fall campaign for scholarships (\$3,205), including the Plant Sale income (\$3,888), and theoretically 5% from the Fund, we could allocate up to about \$9000 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 \$9500.

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. We will need help at 11:00 to set up chairs. The committee will help out with this. 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 voted to adopt the "Tinmouth Community Fund Roles and Responsibilities" and 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 Annual Meeting ~2/27/16

(with thanks to Helen Mango, Sec.)

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

Ray 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 fundraiser raised \$15,590 – \$2,400 for the community fund, \$3,205 for scholarships, and a large gift of appreciated stock that went to the 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 awards 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 from 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 Board: Cathy Reynolds, Helen and Melody Squier were duly elected to the Board.

Officers elected: Cathy ~ Chair, Jan ~ Vice Chair Helen ~ Secretary, and Ray ~ 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.

Solid Waste and Recycling Committee ~ 4/21/16

(with thanks to Helen Mango, Sec.)

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

Wheaton was elected chair, Helen volunteered to be secretary.

Battery Collection: Rick reported that the battery collection box at the Transfer Station is nearly full. The box at the Town Office has capacity, so Gail will bring that box down to the Transfer Station, the full box will be sent to the state facility and new boxes will be ordered. Old cell phones can be placed in the battery boxes.

Paper Recycling: Rick reported that some folks just can't seem to separate paper, boxboard, magazines and newspaper properly. He is hopeful that eventually everyone will do the separating correctly. He also noted that Casella has been doing well with timely pickups.

Electronics: Gail says that Pam Clapp (of the Solid Waste Alliance Communities) reports from the DEC Solid Waste Division that we can collect electronics again. The SWARC agreed that this is a convenience to townspeople (the alternative being having to bring electronics to Wallingford or Rutland). Gail will report to the Select Board at their next meeting that the SWARC recommends putting an electronics collection container back at the Transfer Station.

Wheaton reported that composting is increasing slowly but steadily. Helen will write a piece for the Tales about the economic benefits to individuals of composting (reduction in volume and weight of household garbage, with corresponding decrease in cost of disposal).

Rick reported that work is being done on the safety gate by the garbage dumpster in order to meet code.

Gail suggested that it was time for the SWARC to update the guidelines on what can and cannot be recycled. Helen and Gail will work on this.

Wheaton will make a sign that says “Yard Waste” to be posted in the appropriate place in the Transfer Station.

Next meeting of the SWARC: July 21, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Special Town and School Meetings May 9, 2016

Holly Noble was elected temporary Moderator as Stan Wilbur was not available that evening. 50+ voters were in attendance.

School Articles passed by voice vote included dissolution of the Inter-local contract between the Town and the School District created in 2001 regarding use of the Community Center (it will be replaced with an Agreement between the Town and the School District – which will pass its responsibilities over to the new unified union district on July 1st); rescission of the December town meeting vote endowing the funds from the school’s tax stabilization fund; and voting to transfer the tax stabilization funds into the Town’s Capital Building/Repair Fund. There was much discussion regarding these articles.

Town Articles passed by voice vote included dissolution of the Inter-local contract; also voted to rescind the December vote accepting the school tax stabilization funds; and also voted to accept said funds into the Town’s Capital Building/Repair Fund.

The Select Board had also added an article regarding spending \$4,200 from the Town’s Capital Building/Repair Fund on the new porch for the old creamery building. The Old Creamery Committee had asked to borrow that much and offered to pay it back, but during the March town meeting voters under other business (which is non-binding), through a show of hands decided the Select Board should not make them pay it back. The Select Board decided to let voters make that decision at this meeting. After discussion, the article was approved by a paper ballot vote of 27 yes to 25 no.



Work crew pulling garlic mustard on North End Road.

~ TCC Invasives Workshop ~ *by Carmen Fallar*

On Monday, May 16th, 2016, the Tinmouth Conservation Commission volunteered at the Tinmouth Channel Wildlife Management Area. The crew pulled invasive garlic mustard from the area and helped in the effort to remove this invasive species from the management area.

An invasive species is a non-native species that causes harm to our native species and ecosystems. Invasive species are one of the biggest threats we face to the health of our forests, by decreasing biodiversity and disrupting ecosystem functions.

Garlic mustard can reproduce quickly with hundreds of wind-dispersed seeds, can tolerate shade and can ultimately out compete the other herbaceous plants in the understory, including some of our favorite wildflowers and spring ephemerals.

At the Tinmouth Channel Wildlife Management Area, garlic mustard was expanding into an area that needs protection: a local wetland. Wetlands are valuable ecosystems with their own unique diversity of species and ecosystem services. By removing garlic mustard encroaching on the wetland, we were able to protect this wetland from the damaging effects of invasive species.

The Tinmouth Conservation Commission worked with the Habitat Restoration Crew to get their hands dirty and to make a difference at a high priority site.

If you are interested in learning more about invasive species, or if you are interested in setting up a program with the Habitat Restoration Crew, email Liz Bourguet at ANR.FPRWeedVolunteers@vermont.gov or call at (802) 377-2615. With the help of volunteers, we are making a real impact in our state parks and forests!



Cow Patti Macaluso taking a break during Spring Ring

~ **The Tinmouth Handbell Ensemble Solos**
at the 2016 Vermont Spring Ring ~
by Cris Carabeau

The 35th annual VT Spring Ring was held at the West Rutland High School April 23rd and was an event not to be missed! Handbell choirs gathered from Ottawa, Quebec, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York and 14 groups from Vermont . . . 26 choirs in all. It's a day jammed with rehearsals where everyone works on the 4 pieces to be mass rung, each of us takes 2 classes, and we always take time to eat well. This all culminated in a free public concert at the end of the day. We were so tickled to see so many familiar faces in the audience! We had never participated in a Spring Ring from the front row before. It was thrilling!

Our conductor, Michael Joy was . . . well . . . a joy. He wanted us to "feel the music" and not just play the right notes. The trick was, all 206 of us had to feel the music together. One piece we played as a massed ensemble was "Appassionata," a piece Michael had written for his wife. He told us the story during our last rehearsal and there wasn't a dry eye. We performed that one with feeling from our hearts.

We were one of eight groups to perform a solo. We played "Cantabile" and it went well. We always like to see what Karen James, director of the Bells of Joy in Rutland, will do for a solo, in the true sense of the word. She usually plays a whole table of bells by herself. But this year, she played bells, placed on a tree, with mallets. It was a beautiful 8minute number "Light of Peace" which she played from memory!

It takes a lot of planning to pull this day off and we were right in the thick of it because it was so close to us this year. Cris was on the planning committee which starts work in July for the April event. Sets of bells not being used on the main floor had to be found to use in

classrooms, sources of food donations had to be located and prepared, publicity, housing, facilities, etc. We provided cookies and Meredith Pratt made a cake celebrating our 35th year that ringers will be talking about for Spring Rings to come. It was just perfect!

If you missed the concert and would like to see a condensed version of it, Vito Macaluso made the following possible with the help of PEG TV. Enjoy!
<http://vp.telvue.com/preview?id=T00969&video=276851>

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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.

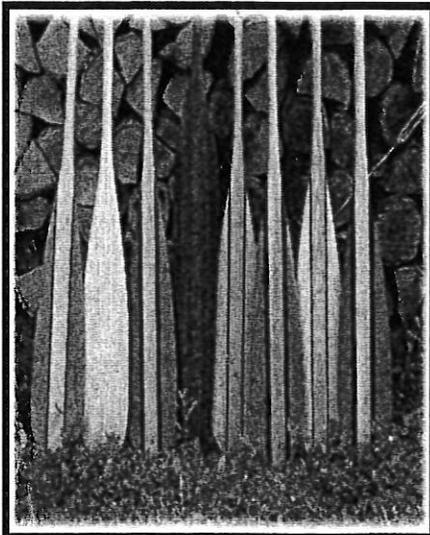
2 bedrooms, open kitchen/living area, large bathroom with electric baseboard heat, propane heater for the main living area, electric stove. All appliances are new within the last 5 years.

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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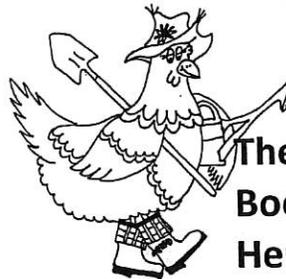
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Thursday, June 23 • 7:30 pm
The Waxwing Four in Concert at
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The Waxwing Four is a jubilee quartet, singing rollicking radio gospel from the 1930s and '40s as well as bluegrass quartets, shape note hymns, and Appalachian ballads. With infectious rhythm and tight harmony, the boys have delighted audiences throughout New England and are excited to be performing at the Old Songs Festival in Altamont, NY this summer. Leading up to the festival, they will be performing in Amherst, Mass. and Tinmouth, Vermont.

The Waxwing Four is Wheaton Squier, Brendan Taaffe, Adam Jacob Simon, and Stefan Amidon. Seasoned musicians, members of the band also perform with The Washed Up Beulah Band, The Sweetback Sisters, The Bright Wings Chorus, Northern Harmony, The Starry Mountain Singers, and The Devil Makes Three.

Listen at thewaxwingfour.bandcamp.com

2016 Summer Reading Challenge

Summer stories at the Tinmouth Library

Activities at the Library

With Jan, Martha, Nelson, Sarah and Ruth

Friday June 17th at 11 A.M. at the Library

Stories and Crafts with Jan

Friday June 24th at 11 A.M. at the Library

Read with Ruth, Snack with Martha

Surprises with Food!

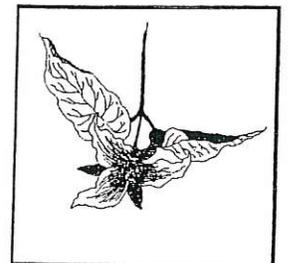
Friday July 8th at 11 A.M. at the Library

Good Books, Good Friends... Ah, summer!

Stories and songs with a visit from Queen Bee

Friday, July 15th at 11 A.M. at the Library

Stories, Wonders, and nibbles with Miss Ruth



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