

TALES OF TINMOUTH

March 2017
Vol. 31 Number 3

Tinmouth
Vermont

Editors' Notes: The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month, for publication on the 1st of the following month. Please email your information to *Tales of Tinmouth* (tinmouthtales@gmail.com) or drop it off at the Town Office. Any submissions missing the cutoff date may be included in the following month.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our request for support. If you have not had a chance to respond to our form in last month's *Tales*, you can bring it with you to Town Meeting on March 4th, or mail it to 515 North End Road, Tinmouth, VT 05773. Thank you!

Pat Psholka, Helen Mango, Sherry Johnson

~ Town Meeting 2017 ~

Town Meeting is Saturday, March 4th. The meeting starts at 1:00 p.m. Public questions and budgets will be voted from the floor at the Community Center. Town Reports were mailed February 21st. Please read them and bring them with you to Town Meeting on Saturday, March 4. Voting for officers and the new unified school district budget via Australian balloting will be Tuesday, March 7th (8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center), or you may cast an early/absentee ballot for that election.

There are no contested office races this year, though someone could run a write-in campaign if they wish. The Select Board will be discussing a proposal for a new town garage.

New this year: You do not have to register to vote before the election (deadline used to be five days before). Vermont has instituted same-day voter registration, meaning that if you have not previously registered to vote and want to do so on town meeting day, you can register then and there. You do need to be a resident of the town in which you are registering to vote.

~Town Meeting Lunch~



Tinmouth Elementary School Grades 5 & 6 will be selling lunch and baked goodies to help raise funds for their class trip. Come early to grab a bite before Town Meeting starts! They will also have a bake sale on Election

Day, Tuesday, March 7th.

~Tinmouth Community Fund Annual Meeting~

The Tinmouth Community Fund will hold its Annual Meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 4th, at the Community Center. We will discuss the work of the committee, celebrate the community groups who are receiving grants for the 2017 season, report on scholarships awarded to Tinmouth residents, and hold elections.

All are welcome!

Agenda

1. Financial Report
2. Review final grant reports (2016 grants)
3. Award 2017 Community Fund grants
4. Report from College Scholarship Committee
5. Report from Camp Scholarship Committee
6. Elections – 3 positions (2 three-year, 1 one-year replacement)
7. Board reorganization – Elect officers
8. Any other Business

~Town Plan Update~

The Tinmouth Planning Commission recently mailed a Community Survey to all property owners and residents. Please return these by March 10th. Your input and suggestions are most welcome and needed.

~Homestead Declaration~

This is 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.



~Friends of the Tinmouth Fire Department~

A group of individuals who want to help out our brave men and women firefighters and junior firefighters. We are looking into ways we can help nourish them while on calls.

If you are interested in helping out, or would like to learn more about this new group, please contact Ingrid Lepley 446-2900 hikings@vermontel.net. Thank you.

Calendar of Events



March 2017

Fire Department	Thursday	2nd	7:00 p.m.	Fire House
Tinmouth Community Fund Annual Meeting	Saturday	4th	11:30 a.m.	Community Center
Town Meeting Floor Voting	Saturday	4th	1:00 p.m.	Community Center
Book Discussion Group	Sunday	5th		Library
Town Meeting Australian Balloting (officers and school budget)	Tuesday	7th	8 a.m.-7:00 p.m.	Community Center
Select Board	Thursday	9th	7:00 p.m.	Town Office
TVFD Community Dinner	Saturday	11th	5 p.m.	Community Center
Daylight Savings Time Begins	Sunday	12th		Spring forward with your clocks!
Writing Group	Sunday	12th	1:30 p.m.	Library
Planning Commission	Thursday	16th	7:30 p.m.	Town Office
Rabies Clinic	Saturday	18th	10:00 a.m.-Noon	Wallingford Town Hall
Spring Arrives	Monday	20th		
Conservation Commission	Monday	20th	7:00 p.m.	Town Office
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Monday	20th		Don't Miss It!



Dog Licenses Due	Saturday	1st		Town Office
Library Open	Saturday	1st	9:00 a.m.-Noon	Library
Fire Department	Thursday	6th	7:00 p.m.	Fire House
Select Board	Thursday	13th	7:00 p.m.	Town Office
Homestead Declaration	Tuesday	18th		Due to VT Dept of Taxes
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Monday	20th		Don't Miss It!

Sunday Church Service 9:00 a.m. ~ All are welcome!

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

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

Special Saturday Library Hours March 4th (first Saturday of the month)

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

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



Get Well Wishes

Get Well Wishes are sent to **Rene Wilbur**, **Barbara Eaton**, and **Penny Jaderlund**.

Sympathies

Heartfelt sympathies are sent to family and friends of **John Marro**, and to family and friends of **Marianne Gagne**. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

~Ads Policy for Tales~

We would like to clarify and update the ad policy for *Tales of Tinmouth*. Ads must be submitted by the 20th of the month. We would prefer either a PDF, scan-able image or text. It is best if your ad has a light background, as it will copy better. In order to keep ads current, starting with the July 2017 issue, ads will be run six months at a time. So ads received in time for the July 2017 issue will run through the December 2017 issue. If you then wish to continue the ad for January 2018 through June 2018, you will need to email the editors at **tinmouthtales@gmail.com** or drop the scan-able image off at the Town Office. If you want an ad to run for less than six months, just let us know. We can help you lay out your ad, but in that case would need to have the ad by the 10th of the month. While we carry ads without charge, donations are greatly appreciated. We do not invoice or bill for ads.

~Dog Licenses~

A current rabies certificate is required. You can call the Town Office if you don't know if your dog needs a shot or not. Fees are \$9 for neutered/spayed dogs and \$13 for those that are not. 50% penalty is assessed after **April 1st**. Rabies Clinic Saturday, **March 18th** 10 a.m. – Noon at the Wallingford Town Hall. Dogs and Cats \$14. All animals must be on a leash or in a crate. Tinmouth folks are welcome. Stop by the Tinmouth Town Office when you're done to get your dog's license – open until noon.

~News from the TVFD's Game Supper~

Brett Wilbur was the winner of the 50/50 raffle, and he donated the \$130 back to the Fire Department (thank you Brett). Carol Carpenter was 1st place winner and Hannah Green was the 2nd place winner of the Department's regular raffle (prizes were guns or cash). Thank you to all who purchased and sold tickets.

And speaking of the Game Supper – there are still dishes waiting to be claimed between the exterior and interior doors at the town office. There are also dishes from various other events at the Community Center – pie plates, bowls, plates, etc. If you are missing something, please check out the stash. If no one claims them by **April 1st**, they are going to disappear!



~Library News~ Ruth Drachman

Sadly, Howard Frank Mosher, Vermont writer, passed away at the end of January. Born in the Catskill Mountains, he lived in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont since 1964. The reading and writing community will miss him! We have a number of his books in the Tinmouth Library including the following: *Stranger in the Kingdom* (winner of the New England Book Award), *Disappearances* (winner of the New England Book Award), and a marvelous adventure, *God's Kingdom* (his most recent book). Also *Walking to Gatlinburg*, *The Fall of the Year*, *Marie Blythe*, *Northern Borders* (a story of childhood in Vermont), and *Waiting for Teddy Williams*. Do stop in and consider reading one of his books. We have nearly all of them.

Writing group will meet on Sunday, March 12th at 1:30 at the library.

Our book discussion group will meet on Sunday, March 5th at the Library to discuss *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett. The discussion leader will be Jo Reynolds. All are welcome.

New for adults for March:

Because I Loved the Daffodil, The writings of a Vermont Farm Wife, by Mildred F. Boyce, compiled by Adam R. Boyce

The Sleepwalker, by Chris Bohjalian, “a spine-tingling novel of lies, loss, and buried desire.”

The Witches, by Stacy Schiff, suspicion, betrayal, and hysteria in 1692 Salem.

Coming next month:

In This Grave Hour, by Jacqueline Winspear

On Turpentine Lane, by Elinor Lipman

New for children for March:

Monkey with a Tool Belt and the Maniac Muffins, by Chris Monroe, the monkey is at it again.

Some Writer! The Story of E. B. White, by Melissa Sweet, a wonderful biography of the author of Charlotte's Web and Stuart Little in pictures and in text.

Star Wars, the original trilogy, a graphic novel

The library is open on Monday and Thursday, from 10:00 a.m. until Noon, and from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The library will be open on Saturday morning once a month. Look for the librarian to be there on the FIRST Saturday of every month from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The date in March is Saturday, March 4th.

A few reminders from the Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department



1. Please make sure your batteries are fresh in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Pick a date every year to change them. How about Town Meeting Day?
2. Make sure your chimneys get cleaned regularly.
3. If you should happen to come across a car accident, please let the 911 dispatcher know what the situation is. If there is a person trapped in the car, be sure to say that there is an ENTRAPMENT so the proper equipment can be dispatched.
4. Check to see that your 911 house number is visible from the road. You can see Gail Fallar if you have any questions about this.
5. And finally, if you should ever have to call in a fire, make sure the 911 dispatcher reports your name and your address.



~Tinmouth Elementary School News~

From the Principal

We are in the doldrums of winter and yet Tinmouth School is bustling with activity.

We have 12 students at Pico each Monday afternoon, learning to ski and snowboard. Roughly 30 students are also headed to Georgetti Arena at the same time to skate. Teachers take advantage of this early release time to participate in professional development. As part of the teachers' professional development, we are designing our WIN (What I Need) Program. This is where the entire school focuses for 40 minutes three times a week on working with small groups of children to strengthen academics. Our focus this semester is on English Language Arts.

Speaking of academics, the students completed the NWEA toward the last week of January. This test helps us to assess our students' progress and determine instructional needs. Our fourth graders completed the NAEP Federal assessment on February 17th.

On February 10th, students traveled to Wallingford Nursing Home and sang for residents. We were fortunate to have Nelson Jaquay accompany the singers on guitar. Students gifted flowers and valentines..



Two of our kindergarteners in action.

February 10th was also the date of the Tinmouth School Valentine Dance. It was held in the Community Center from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Our live DJ, Jonah Edge, kept students stepping lively with a variety of music.

Basketball season is winding down. The season ends during the first week of March. When you meet up with our coaches, please take a moment to thank them (Anna Majorell and Tracey Carey) for their selfless contribution of time and leadership!

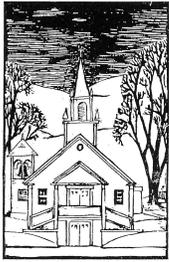
If the weather cooperates, we will be cross-country skiing during our scheduled PE time on Fridays. Jo and Grant Reynolds have fitted all the students with equipment and the call has gone out to volunteers who expressed interest in working with students. If you are interested in volunteering please call the school (446-2458)

From the Tinmouth Solid Waste and Recycling Committee

Casella's is no longer accepting plastic bags (big ones like pellet bags, animal feed bags, etc., and little ones like grocery bags) as recyclable – the market has tanked for that product and Casella's is not required to recycle it. For now, plastic bags must go into the trash dumpster and treated like other solid waste (meaning you have to pay to get rid of them).



The Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild gathering at the Community Center held on February 4th.



TINMOUTH CHURCH

~Tinmouth Community Church~

Dear Friends.

These days, it seems like everyone I talk to feels anxious or uncertain about something, or about everything in general. Many people ask me for help in coping with their distress. "Does meditation really work?" "How about prayer?" "My grandmother prays every day, and she says it helps." "Would it help if I prayed too?"

People are feeling that they need something more to lean on, to depend on in these challenging times. For a while it has been relatively easy to just float through without thinking too much about deeper issues. But these days, the deeper issues keep popping up in the news and in conversations with friends. Will affordable health care continue to be available? What is the status of those refugees who were supposed to come to Rutland? What will happen to the climate in light of setbacks in conservation and protection? Even if you are not directly affected, it is an uncertain time.

So, how can we cope with the challenges and changes facing us? Well, life has always been about change, so in some ways the basic reality of life's changeability has not altered. People have been managing for a long, long time, and so I thought it might help to take a look at some of the ways that we have dealt with uncertainty and anxiety.

- Prayer is a good resource. Prayer reminds us that we are not the only ones on whom the weight of the world rests. It offers an opportunity to let go of whatever is worrying us and hand it over to some power outside of ourselves.
- Meditation is another helpful technique. Simply taking time to focus attention on your breath can create some literal "breathing room" between yourself and the things that are troubling you.
- Physical activities are very helpful in giving our bodies a chance to release some of the energy we have been storing up with our worrying. This lets us sleep better too. (You may even get so wrapped up in what your body is doing - running, walking, playing volleyball, doing yoga, swimming - that you stop worrying for awhile.)
- Spend time with animals. Companion animals are a great source of comfort and stress-reduction. Bird watching and noticing the wild creatures outside your window can be nice too.
- Get together with friends or family for a meal or just to enjoy each other's company. Be sure to talk about things that lift your spirits.
- Share something beautiful with another person. One of my teachers taught me this several years ago, and it became a habit that I appreciate to this day. There is

something about looking for some small beautiful thing to share that helps me focus on the present moment.

Last week I was outside with some friends at night. The moon was full and it was shining through the pine branches in such a way that it created shimmering circular rainbows of light. I brought a friend over to the exact spot where I was standing and showed her what I saw. Together we stood there basking in the moonlight and the magic of it all. I still feel a sense of peace when I remember that moment.

What small beautiful thing made a difference for you today?

- Shirley



POTLUCK DINNER

~Community Potluck~

The Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department would like to invite the community to a Potluck Supper. The supper will be held at the Community Center on March 11, 2017 at 5 p.m.

The Fire Department will provide the meat (leftover from the Game Supper.) We invite you to bring a salad or dessert to share.

~Large Print Option for Tales ~

Do you or do you know someone who has trouble reading the *Tales of Tinmouth*? We are offering *Tales of Tinmouth* in a large print version. It will not have graphics and will be a single column. Please call the town office if you would like your copy changed to large print.

The Tales of Tinmouth is now Online!

Would you like to read the *Tales of Tinmouth* online? Go to the town's web site tinmouthvt.org, click on About, which is the second item from the left, and select *Tales of Tinmouth* from the drop down menu.

~Financial Education Workshop~

BROC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont is very pleased to announce that People's United Bank will present a **FREE** financial education workshop around Home Ownership. On Wednesday, March 8th from 10:00 am-Noon, come learn about the home buying process, renting versus owning, having a pre-homebuyers plan and shopping for a mortgage. This informative workshop will be held at BROC-Community Action located at 45 Union Street in Rutland. To register, contact Shelley Faris at 802-665-1742 or sfaris@broc.org.

~Tinmouth Old Firehouse Spring Concert Series~

The Old Firehouse Crew is delighted to announce its Spring Series. We have some amazing musicians performing on our small stage this spring. We hope to see you at all of them. Who are the Old Firehouse Crew? Eight Tinmouth volunteers who do everything from sweeping floors to writing the publicity. That's why 90% of the donations go to the performers, with 10% to the Town of Tinmouth towards the cost of maintaining the Old Firehouse. Our regular folks know that we raffle off two free tickets for any future concert every time.

All concerts are on Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. in Tinmouth village. Doors open at 7 p.m. The Old Firehouse is on Mountain View Road just a couple of hundred feet south of the intersection with Vermont Route 140. Suggested donation of \$10 to \$15; 90% to the musicians; 10% to the Town. Local groups provide refreshments. Your donations support their activities.



Bill Staines Opens The Old Firehouse Season ~Friday, April 7

Bill Staines has been playing and singing folk music for 40 years. Most of the songs are his own, but many have passed into music history without his name on them. Bill's performance last May drew the biggest crowd in Firehouse history. Bill's music is a slice of Americana, reflecting with the same ease his feelings about the prairie people of the Midwest or the adventurers of the Yukon, the on-the-road truckers, or the everyday workers that make up this land. Many of Bill's songs have appeared in grade school music books, church hymnals, and scouting campfire songbooks; he is one of only a few songwriters to have eight songs published in the classic song collection, *Rise up Singing*. Composer David Amram recently described Bill as "a modern day Stephen Foster...his songs will be around 100 years from now." A performance with Bill has even more than his classic favorite songs. In 45 years of touring he has collected a marvelous inventory of funny stories, which he doesn't hesitate to share with his audiences.

Bill Staines will be the first concert in the Tinmouth Old Firehouse Concert Series, at 7:30 p.m. on **April 7**. Come early! If the house is full weather may not permit outside seating.



Alex Smith brings Adirondack Mountain Sounds to the Old Firehouse ~Friday April 21

Alex Smith grew up in Long Lake, in the heart of New York's Adirondack Park, and his music strives first and foremost to echo the people of that area. He builds songs from a blend of traditional folk harmony and strikingly modern lyrics, confronting today's

most pressing issues with grace while paying homage to the masters who came before him. Alex is new to the Firehouse, but the Crew listened to his recordings and is delighted to be able to present him. Smith's mother is a historian and his father is a writer and boat builder. Their influence is evident in his attention to detail: each of Smith's characters, though fictional, lives and breathes a balance between beauty and imperfection. His stories draw on the triumphs and hardships of friends, relatives, and neighbors near and far.

Alex Smith is the second concert in the Tinmouth Old Firehouse Concert Series, at 7:30 p.m. on **April 21**.



Patti Casey and Shady Rill Come Back to The Tinmouth Old Firehouse ~May 5

The Old Firehouse Crew is delighted to welcome Patti Casey and Tom Mackenzie, performing as Shady Rill, back to the Old Firehouse in the Tinmouth Village National Historic District. The village may be small, in fact tiny, but it's officially historic. And we have fun with outstanding performers like Shady Rill. Patti and Tom are two of Vermont's musical gems. Separately they have been entertaining folks around the country as members of many different groups. Together they explore everything from French Canadian dance tunes, to Tin Pan Alley, to Old Time Country, and a healthy dose of originals. Patti is an award winning songwriter and her voice will melt your heart. Tom's banjo and voice are a perfect compliment, as the two of them weave their way through the many styles of traditional based songs and tunes. You will leave one of their performances with toes tapping and a smile on your face. With careers that collectively span decades and richly diverse musical influences that stretch from the British Isles to deep Appalachia, Tom MacKenzie and Patti Casey breathe new depth and present a refreshing take on traditional acoustic music. They have delighted the Firehouse with their Banjo, Guitar, Flute, Hammered Dulcimer, Keyboard, Ukulele, seated clogging, and fine humor. You just have to see Patti play the flute while clogging in a chair. Patti and Tom – Shady Rill – are the third concert in the Spring Series at the Old Firehouse in Tinmouth, at 7:30 p.m. on **May 5**.



Northern Flyer Roars Into Tinmouth With Bluegrass for the Old Firehouse ~May 26

Four veteran Vermont musicians decided to combine their first-rate harmony singing and instrumental expertise to form Northern Flyer. Two of them are veterans of that old favorite, the Bluegrass Gospel Project. Their music rings with a hard-driving authenticity, full of the punch and intensity demanded by bluegrass fans. You'll see that they are not confined by the boundaries of the traditional

bluegrass repertoire. Their shows will introduce you to original songs and lots of other unexpected material. Northern Flyer appeals to bluegrass and Americana fans, and to all fans of fine vocalizing and strong acoustic musicianship. Northern Flyer will be the fourth concert in the Spring Series at the Old Firehouse in Tinmouth, at 7:30 p.m. on May 26.



Sky Blue Boys Return to Tinmouth's Old Firehouse ~June 2

The Sky Blue Boys, long time favorites of the enthusiastic crowds at the Old Firehouse, have revived the tradition of "brothers duets." They have built up a large repertoire of wonderful old ballads, parlor songs, heart songs and sacred numbers. Heeding their own musical instincts they have expanded the accompaniment to include a variety of acoustic instruments and added many newer songs including several of their own compositions. Willy and Dan have played together for decades. They formed the celebrated Vermont bluegrass band *Banjo Dan and the Mid-Nite Plowboys* in 1972. But never far from their hearts were the sounds they learned to love long ago – the simple moving sounds of the early "brothers duets." The Sky Blue Boys will be the fifth and final concert in the Spring Series at the Old Firehouse, at 7:30 p.m. on **June 2**.

While this will be the end of our Spring concerts, Fall at the Firehouse is already in the works. The Crew hopes to see you at every concert.

– The Old Firehouse Crew

~Nature Notes~

Hollis Squier reported seeing fish worms out and about on February 23rd, as well as a woolly bear caterpillar.



Rick saw a robin earlier in the week, others have seen a flock of them as well as red winged black birds. And there have been many reports of birds singing.

Temperatures in the 60's in mid-February after a foot of snow. Many sugar makers have tapped and are busy making maple syrup.

Grandchildren were seen dancing on the deck in the snow with bare feet!

Breaking News – The ice went out over night, on the morning of February 26th there was mostly clear water.

**~ Front Porch Forum ~
Connect with your Tinmouth Neighbors**

Need to send out a timely announcement? You can use Front Porch Forum. Announcements are sent out the next day to everyone who has signed up.

To sign up, go to <http://FrontPorchForum.com>. Or stop by the town office to sign up!! 200+ households have signed to date! Good way to discuss community issues, sell a canoe, give away a kitten, etc.. If you are a second homeowner you can use your 911 address.

Contra Dance with Cedar, Guillaume and Everest and Mary Wesley calling

Friday, March 17, 2017 at 8:00 pm
Tinmouth Community Center,
573 Route 140



Dance to the splendid tunes of Cedar Stanistreet on fiddle, Guillaume Sparrow-Pepin on accordion and keyboard and Everest Witman on guitar and

foot percussion with Mary Wesley calling on March 17 from 8-11 pm at the Tinmouth Community Center. All dances are taught, and you do not need a partner. If you are a beginner, come right at 8:00 for a beginner's lesson to learn the moves. There will be live music, enthusiastic swinging and dancing and a fun night for all.

The dance takes place in the Tinmouth Community Center on the third Friday. The Community Center is on Rte 140 in the center of Tinmouth, Vermont 5 miles west of Wallingford. Please bring clean, non-marring shoes. Admission is \$10-\$12, \$8 for teens and free for children 12 and under. Refreshments will be available to benefit the dance fund. More info at tinmouthcontradance.org. Like us on Facebook at Tinmouth Contra Dance. Shine up those dancing shoes and bring a couple of friends to dance with! Our email is tinmouthdance@gmail.org.

We dance every third Friday January through May and September-December, although our November dance is always the Friday after Thanksgiving to accommodate the Game Supper.



Spring ahead on March 12th

~Marion's Musings~

Winter is moving right along, although this season is an odd one. As I write, the temperature is 40 degrees. Who knows what next week will bring? We finally got some snow and the ski resorts are happy, but with this kind of temperature, the snow is melting fast. Climate change?

As I was pondering about my subject for this month, I happened to remember an incident that happened when I was a child (yep, I was young once). We lived on a farm over at Carver Falls just outside of Fair Haven. It belonged to the former CVPS (now green Mountain Power). There was a hydro plant there that my father operated and we lived in a house belonging to the "Company," as my father called it. I had one sister at the time and we loved the place.

We were at the end of the road. We attended a country school just over the line in New York State; our school bus was a neighbor who picked us up each day along with two other girls. It was a country school with nine students.

Every Friday, we would go to either Fair Haven or sometimes Rutland for shopping. Occasionally we would go to a band concert on Sunday evenings in Fair Haven. The good old days. We had no TV. I remember having a battery-operated radio and listening to it once in a while. We did have a telephone. My folks belonged to the Grange and we would go to dances with them and any other doings the Grange had. We had a cow, a pig, and chickens. Always a veggie garden and my Mother had beautiful flower gardens.

The power station was down back of the house just below the falls. We would go down a long hill, through the woods to visit Dad. I remember the turbines that ran with the water from the dam. This was our world and we loved it. Now the power line that transported the electricity went over fields and through woods. Every few months it had to be checked and maintained. There were no buckets to put the linemen up to the poles, maybe one truck with equipment and tools and a lot of territory to cover. We lived in a big house and when it was time for the crews to come, they would stay with us. Sometimes it would be a week or two, depending on the amount of time it took to do the work. And work it was. They climbed the poles manually. I remember seeing the climbing spikes they put on and watching them climb up.

I remember my grandmother Rose was living with us at the time and she helped my Mother feed these guys. She also helped with the housework, making beds, etc. There usually were from five to six men at a time. Both Mom and my Grandmother were good cooks. They even did the men's laundry for them. Now these guys were probably in their twenties, hardworking and full of jokes. At the supper

table they would tell of the day's work and sometimes tell stories. My grandmother was a quiet lady, very religious. She had a habit of picking up her saucer along with the cup when she took a drink of her tea. Now one of the crewmen was a big guy named Jack. He was loud, full of jokes. One night when Gran picked up her cup and saucer, he did the same with his cup, even putting up his little finger as some people used to do. Of course the rest of the crew laughed! Gran never said a word, but you could see she was put out. The next night, when the men went upstairs to bed all of a sudden we heard one of them cussing and sputtering to beat the band. Finally the noise quieted down. We found out later that when Gran was making the beds she found that Jack wore a nightshirt instead of pjs. She took two horse blanket safety pins and put them about halfway down the middle of the shirt, making it very difficult to pull over his head and put on. It was cold upstairs. Do you know that man never picked on Gran again; in fact he was very nice to her. I was only eight at the time and I still chuckle at this.

I seem to have run out of steam, so bye bye.

Free Tax Preparation: BROCC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont is an Internal Revenue Service recognized Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site. Our certified staff and volunteers from the Castleton University accounting program are available to prepare and file your Federal income tax return, Vermont income tax return, Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment Claim, Household Income Schedule and Renter Rebate Claim. The VITA program offers FREE tax help to people who generally make \$54,000 or less, persons with disabilities, the elderly and tax payers with limited English who need assistance in preparing their tax returns. Call today to make your appointment! In Rutland County 802-775-0878 or in Bennington County 802-447-7515.

~Meeting Highlights~

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

Select Board 02/18/17

Present were members Frank Sears, Matt Patry, and Laurie Phillips (at 9:55 a.m.); as well as Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Kim Harbaugh, Grant Reynolds, Jo Reynolds, and Gail Fallar- Board Assistant.

Eric reported sand pile is dwindling due to lots of snow and plowing. Matt thanked Eric for his efforts, noting he has not yet had a year on the job, but that there had been comments from concerned citizens about timing of plowing. Eric noted that sometimes that is caused by the timing of the storm. Recently as school was closed, the south route was plowed before the north route. The north

route is usually done first (after the paved roads) as the school bus needs to pick up students along North End and North East Roads.

Board discussed Scott Lepley's proposal for a new town garage, the need for engineering for septic, water, and location of the new structure. Open House for the old garage is Saturday, February 25th 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Board discussed Stephan Torres' emails regarding winter maintenance on McCoy Road. Phil Hayes has been plowing and sanding for many, many years, Board is confident in Phil's ability and proposed no changes.

Board reviewed proposed changes to the Personnel Policy regarding Addendum C (benefits). The Vermont League of Cities and Towns is reviewing the remainder. Upon advice from VLCT staff regarding Addendum C, the Board decided that employees receiving health insurance would have to pay 10% of the premium (pending a discussion with the three folks whom this affects) and would have a one-time increase in salary/hourly rates to compensate the first year; they decided to create a cafeteria (125) plan to allow for those premiums to be pre-tax and provide for a third-party vendor to administer health insurance benefits, and they decided to delete the section proposed by the Personnel Policy Committee regarding health insurance benefits to retirees who leave the job before being Medicare eligible (62-65 years of age).

Matt advised that he will not be available to attend town meeting – his work requires that he attend an event in New York State. He apologized to the Board. Members discussed town meeting and the need for discussion about the town garage. They will also address the Personnel Policy work done since last town meeting. There was discussion regarding whether voters could vote to amend the budget from the floor. They can, but it is rarely done.

Board appointed Michael Fannin as alternate representative to the Rutland Regional Transportation Council. Board approved and signed Liquor License for the Tinmouth Snack Bar (Gregg and Tina Casey). Board approved and authorized Matt to sign the planning contract with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission for their help updating the town plan.

Board discussed a potential complaint to the Board of Health (the Select Board and Laurie as Health Officer) regarding an accumulation of household trash on Mountain View Road. Laurie will give the property owner one more chance.

Gail advised that Casella's is no longer accepting plastic bags (think pellet bags, animal feed bags, etc.) as

recyclable – the market has tanked for that product and Casella's is not required to recycle it. For now, they must go into the trash dumpster and treated like solid waste (meaning you have to pay to get rid of them).

Matt thanked Laurie for her service of nine years on the Select Board; this was her last Select Board meeting.

Tinmouth Community Center Board ~ 01/25/17

Present were Board members Grant Reynolds (School), Denise McGinley (Town) and Frank Sears (Select Board) as well as Cathy Reynolds, Doug Fontein and Gail Fallar, Treasurer.

First order of business: Carmen Fallar recently resigned as Building Manager. Frank volunteered to serve as interim until the position could be filled. Denise will post a notice on Front Porch Forum. There was discussion of the rental process, policies, etc., to bring Frank up to speed.

The main purpose of the meeting was for the Board to consider a request from Cathy Reynolds on behalf of the Contra Dance Committee to instruct the Building Manager to not double book the Community Center and the Old Fire House on the same evening. There was much discussion – contra dances are the third Friday (except for November due to the Fire Department's Annual Game Supper). The Old Fire House concerts have been on the second and fourth Fridays – this year however they were switched to the first and third and that created four evenings with both a concert and contra dance. There are a number of folks who wish to attend both. Concern was expressed regarding parking if both events happen at the same time; there is sometimes overflow for each that uses the Church's parking lot. After much discussion, Denise moved and Frank seconded to only allow one large event per night (such as concerts, contra dance, weddings, funerals, large private parties) in either the community center or Old Fire House. Denise and Frank voted in favor, Grant recused himself (he is a member of the Old Fire House Concert Crew and has family ties to the situation).

Cathy advised that she would be applying for a Community Fund Grant to plant flowering crab apples trees along the fence on the town green and asked if there were any concerns – she will need permission of the Select Board.

Planning Commission ~ Special Meeting 01/30/17

Present were members Michael Fallar, Amanda Chisamore, Kim Harbaugh, Vito Macaluso, Denise (Tess) McGinley, Bob Lloyd, and Grant Reynolds, as well as Barbara Noyes Pulling – Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC), and Gail Fallar, Secretary.

Barbara presented a draft contract and scope of work to update the town plan by September. She also inquired whether Tinmouth would like to be a “pilot” town in regards to the new energy planning requirements. Regional Planning Commissions must provide a certain amount of data and mapping for towns to amend their town plans, but to comply and meet the new standards established by the Public Service Department/Board, more must be done. After discussion of the work required, members decided to pursue the Enhanced Energy Plan once the review and update of the current plan is completed; they chose to not be a guinea pig on the first round.

As part of the Town Plan update, members reviewed and discussed a proposed survey – Bob, Grant, Vito and Denise presented a draft – Barbara will post it to Survey Monkey so folks can take it online if they wish. Hard copies will be mailed next week to all property owners, voters and residents in Tinmouth. Due date for return will be March 10th. TPC will present/discuss it at town meeting, to encourage folks to provide input. TPC members will collate survey results or input them into Survey Monkey so that program will do it. It is not part of the scope of work for the RRPC.

Next meeting was scheduled for February 27, 2017, but will include discussion to move the regular meetings back to the third Thursday.

Solid Waste and Recycling Committee (SWARC) ~ 02/16/17

Present were members Gail Fallar, Wheaton Squier (chairman), Rick LaCroix (on speaker phone), Helen Mango (secretary).

Gail reported that Casella will no longer accept plastic bags – grocery bags, pellet bags, feed bags, etc. They don’t have to take them (yet). We can’t do anything about it. Helen will put a note in Tales about this.

Gail would also like the Committee to look into reorganizing the Transfer Station. If the Town is going to build a new town garage, things will need to be moved around. The existing garage would stay for cold storage. Water and septic would need to be put in. There are engineering issues to think about. Maybe a walk-around the site when the weather improves is needed.

The Town is still looking for a part-time attendant for the Transfer Station. This has been put on Front Porch Forum and has been in Tales and will be again.

Next meeting of the SWARC is scheduled for Thursday, May 25, 2017, at 7 p.m.

Tinmouth Community Fund Board ~ 02/13/17

Present were Board members Cathy Reynolds (President), Jan Krantz (Vice President), Jo Reynolds, Ray Pratt (Treasurer), Melody Squier, and Helen Mango (Secretary), as well as Gail Fallar, Town Treasurer.

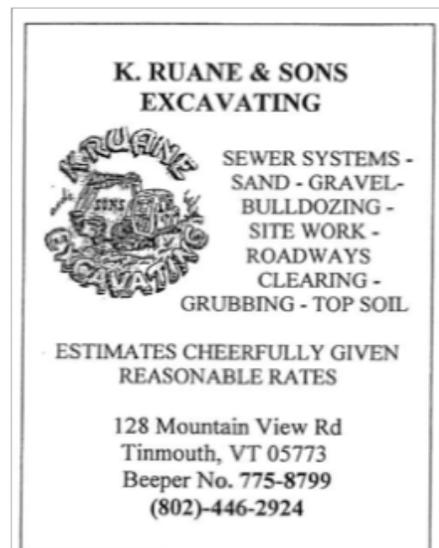
Cathy discussed the annual meeting coming up on March 4th. Cow Patti and Ray have offered to run again for their positions. Someone needs to nominate them. Jo is stepping down (three-year term), and there is one year left on Annie Robbins’ term. The board discussed possible nominees.

Helen will print the grant certificates and will award them at the meeting. Ray will give a treasurer’s report. Jan will report on the workings of the TCF last year.

Cathy reported that TCF has a balance of funds in the Vermont Community Fund of \$281,078. Of this, the Scholarship Fund has \$129,761.71.
\$45,193.29 = Reserve Fund (can withdraw more than 5% of this fund if there is an extraordinary reason)
\$224,885.27 = Endowed Fund (this is a more restricted fund; can spend no more than 5% per year from this fund)
There are donations of \$1660 currently in hand (as donation checks in the TCF town checkbook). The TCF can spend up to 5% of \$151,317 = \$7,565 on 2017 grants.

Members reviewed 17 applications for Community Fund grants. Discussion and action ensued. The grants will be awarded at the annual meeting on March 4th.

The Summer Camp Committee will be reconvened in the spring and will fund applications as they see fit. The Board would like to tie up some loose ends concerning unused grant dollars from past years. Future grant applications need to state that funds not spent in a year are either given back to the TCF or can be rolled over for no more than one more year with approval of the TCF committee





Recipe Corner – Vermont Spring Chicken

1 (2 1/2 to 3 lb.) chicken, cut up
 1/4 c. butter melted
 1/2 c. maple syrup
 1/2 tsp. grated lemon rind
 1 tsp. salt
 dash of pepper
 1/2 c. chopped almonds
 2 tsp. lemon juice

Place chicken pieces in shallow buttered baking dish. Mix remaining ingredients and pour evenly over chicken. Bake uncovered for 50-60 minutes at 400°F - baste occasionally.

Originally submitted by Donna Gervais for first "Taste of Tinmouth" cookbook.

If you have a recipe you'd like to share, send along to smhb@vermontel.net or mail to Shirley Bucceri, 49 North End Road, Tinmouth, VT 05773



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<http://www.vermontproperty.com/detail/Vermont/manchester-benningtonrentals/1412/>

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Town Meeting March 4th

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