

TALES OF TINMOUTH

February 2019
Vol. 33 Number 2

Tinmouth
Vermont

Editors' Notes: *The old timers used to say, on February 2nd there should remain, half the hay and half the grain! Days are getting longer . . . !*

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.

Many, many thanks for the donations to keep *Tales* in print. They are very much appreciated!

Pat Psholka, Helen Mango & Gail Fallar

~ Town Meeting 2019 ~

Town Meeting is **Saturday, March 2nd** this year. Public questions and budgets will be voted from the floor at the Community Center, meeting starts at 1:00. Officers will be chosen on **Tuesday, March 5th** via Australian balloting, 8:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m. or you may cast an early/absentee ballot for that election.

The following have submitted petitions:

Moderator - **Stan Wilbur** - 1 year term
Select Board Member- **Frank Sears**-3 year term
Lister - **Shirley Bucceri** -3 year term
Auditor – **Sandy Goyette** -3 year term
Auditor- **Sherry Johnson** – 1 year term
1st Constable - **Paul Morris** - 2 year term
Town Agent – **Rick Fallar** -1 year term
Grand Juror – **Glenn D. Merrill** -1 year term
Tax Collector (Del.) – **Cat Yoder** -1 year term
School Board Member to the Mill River Unified

Union School District – 3 year term – In the only contested race **Carolyn Feury and Amy Martone** are running to replace retiring Grant Reynolds. *(Please page 4 for their requests of support.)*

You can also run as a write-in candidate or write someone else in on the ballot.

~ Registering to Vote ~

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, and proof of that (like a utility bill).

~ Absentee Ballots ~

If you wish to request an **Absentee Ballot**, you must do so before **5:00 pm on Monday, March 4th**. **Voted ballots must be returned by 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5th**. You can also vote **early** at the town office anytime after **February 7th**.

~ Town Meeting Lunch ~

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

~ Town Reports ~

The town report has been sent to the printer and will be mailed soon. Please read them and bring them with you to Town Meeting on **Saturday, March 2nd**.

**The Mill River Unified Union School District
Annual Meeting will be held on
Thursday February 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

The meeting will be held at the Mill River High School Library.

Voting for the school budget and other fiscal matters, including a bond for energy efficiency measures will be on Tuesday, March 5th from 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

An Absentee ballot may be requested, but it would be nice to see you!

~ TCF Annual Meeting ~

The **Tinmouth Community Fund** will hold its **Annual Meeting at 11:30 am on Saturday, March 2nd** at the Community Center. 2019 Grant awards will be presented as well as reports for the past year, and election of Directors and officers. All are welcome!

Please plan on attending to find out what the Tinmouth Community Fund is all about! How TCF is working to enhance the great sense of community that Tinmouth enjoys.



February 2019 Calendar of Events



Library OPEN
 Fire Dept.
 Select Board
 Writers' Group
 Book Discussion
 NO Contra Dance
Tales of Tinmouth Deadline
 Planning Commission
 THGS
 MRUUSD Annual Meeting

Saturday 2nd 9-12
 Thursday 7th 7:00
 Thursday 14th 7:00
 Sunday 10th 1:30
 Sunday 17th 3:00
 Wednesday 20th
 Thursday 21st 7:00
 Sunday 24th 2:00
 Thursday 28th 7:00

Gone to Saratoga, see you in March!

Library
 Fire House
 Town Office
 Library
 Ruth Drachman's
 Don't Miss It!
 Town Office
 Town Office
 Mill River High Sch. Library



March 2019 Calendar of Events

Library OPEN
 TCF Annual Meeting
 Town Meeting (Floor)
 Town Meeting ~Aust. Ballot
 Fire Department
 Select Board
 Writers' Group
 Planning Commission
 Contra Dance
Tales of Tinmouth Deadline
 Book Discussion
 THGS

Saturday 2nd 9-12
 Saturday 2nd 11:30 a.m.
 Saturday 2nd 1:00
 Tuesday 5th 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 Thursday 7th 7:00
 Thursday 14th 7:00
 Sunday tba 1:30
 Thursday 14th 7:00
 Friday 15th 8:00
 Wednesday 20th
 Sunday tba 3:00
 Sunday 24th 2:00

Library
 Community Center
 Community Center
 Community Center
 Fire House
 Town Office
 Library
 Town Office
 Community Center
 Don't Miss It!
 Library
 Town Office

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 10:00-noon & 1-5 and Thursday 10:00-noon & 1-5

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

Knit, Craft or Chat ~ Mondays 3:00 – 5:00 pm ~ Library

Bone Builders ~ Tuesday 10:00-11:00 am & Friday 9:00 – 10:00 am Library

First Congregational Church of Wallingford

Vermont Dinner
 Saturday, February 9, 2019
 5:00 pm
 \$12.00 per person

Featuring Baked Beans, Wallingford Locker Ham, Rolls, Coleslaw and Maple Desserts!



TINMOUTH CHURCH

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

Hunting and Fishing Licensees are available at the Town Office.

The town receives \$1.50 for each license sold!!
 Licenses expired on December 31st!!



~ Job Opening ~

The Tinmouth Community Center Board is looking for a Building Coordinator. This is a paid position. Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Scheduling building use for the Community Center, Old Fire House and Bake Oven
- Managing contracts, deposits and payments
- Verifying building condition after rentals

For more information contact Ann Czar at 446-3207 or annczar1@gmail.com or stop by the Town Office for a job description.



From the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee (SWARC)

It's hard to keep track of what can and cannot be put into the Zero-Sort recycling roll-off. The rules seem to change when the wind blows. The SWARC will try to keep everyone updated on what is and is not currently allowed into the Zero-Sort bin. This month we'll look at **plastics**.

You **can** recycle pretty much any plastic container that is labeled #1, #2, #5 or #7. Look for the number in the little recycling triangle embossed somewhere on the container.

You **cannot** put plastic bags, plastic wrap, or Styrofoam into the recycling bin, no matter what its number is. And please, **NO LIDS!** Lids are sometimes made of a combination of different plastic types, which makes them very difficult to recycle. Also, they are small enough to fall through or jam the sorting machinery at the Zero-Sort facility.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Please remember that while there are many items that are recyclable, the company who processes our recycling does not collect them all – they have no market. So we have to abide by their rules.

~ THGS ~

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

2:00 ~ refreshments provided.

All are welcome.

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

~ Library News ~

By Ruth Drachman, Librarian

As winter gets into full swing, remember that the library has **SNOW SHOES** which can be borrowed just like a book. We have several pair of adult size, and several pair of children's size snow shoes. The snow shoes can be checked out for one week.

Writing group will meet on **Sunday, February 10th** at **1:30 at the library**. This will be the third presentation of "Writer's in our Midst". We will hear the Tinmouth school principal, Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker talking about the writing in her life. Writer's workshop is from 1:30 – 2:30, and Maureen's presentation at 2:30. **Join us!**

Book Discussion group will read *The Uncommon Reader* by Alan Bennett, and will meet for the discussion and for their annual Pot Luck at Ruth Drachman's house on **February 17th at 3 PM**.

New books for adults:

We have obtained a number of mysteries by the author, Donna Leon. These are all set in Venice, Italy, and the detective, Commissario Guido Brunetti, is an interesting character. If you love mysteries with a foreign setting, this is for you!

Becoming by Michelle Obama, a memoir by the former first lady.

Coming of Age by Madeline Kunin, a memoir by the former governor of Vermont.

Knit and Chat is held in the library on Mondays from 3 until 5 PM. Come and do whatever handcrafts you prefer, and be prepared to chat as well.

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., as well as the morning of the first Saturday of the month, February 2nd from 9 until Noon.

~ Community News ~

Get Well Wishes are sent to **Nancy Noble, Betty Fallar, Marion Hambly, Bob Emerick, Rod Start, Bill Secoy, Ruth LaFantano, Rose Morris, Cathy Ricketts, Midge Sherman, and all cold and flu sufferers.**

Heartfelt Sympathies are sent to family and friends of **Charlotte Lewis and Lenny Link**. And belatedly to family and friends of **Susan Rice**.

Marion's Musings will return in the Spring. She fell and broke a hip and is recovering.

She will be 90 years young the beginning of February, so **let's shower her with birthday cards**. Please send good wishes and a happy remembrance if you have one, to Marion Hambly, c/o 515 North End Road, Tinmouth, VT 05773. Thanks!

~ **Mill River Unified Union School District
Tinmouth Representative Board Opening** ~

There are two candidates for this 3 year position, please find below their requests for your support.

My name is **Carolyn Feury**. I'm married with two grown children and a grandchild who live in the district. I have been a resident of Tinmouth for the past 31 years and am running for the Tinmouth representative for the Mill River Union School District Board. Both my children graduated from Mill River Union High School and my daughter attended Tinmouth Elementary School.

I am retired from my professions, an art teacher in both Layton, New Jersey and Middletown Springs, Vermont, and as a former maternity nurse in New Jersey and a case manager for Rutland Mental Health in Vermont.

In my current volunteer roles as a member of the Tinmouth Handbell Ensemble since its inception more than a decade ago, and the RAVNA (Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association) for the last 6 years, I enjoy giving back by donating my time.

In my previous residence in Hampton, NJ, I was a member of the school board for three years before relocating to Vermont. I found the experience rewarding, and I am very much aware of how much time and effort being a school board member takes.

I feel very strongly about the viability and competency of our schools. My granddaughter attends Tinmouth currently and I am convinced we need to keep a strong and up-to-date high school to insure the future of our children and their success in life. We must have competitive programs for them now so that they are equipped to compete in the real world.

Being retired I have the time available to attend meetings. The heart and soul of a community are in part, with the schools and as such, I am cognizant of how vital a resource they must be in all aspects. I am fully prepared to meet the challenges of being a school board member.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am excited to share with you that I have placed my name on the ballot for the School Board position. For those of you who do not know me, I am a masters prepared registered nurse with experience in both leadership and board membership.

I am currently employed as a nurse leader and am serving as the president of the regional board for a professional healthcare society. I have experience in public service and have served on the Town of Tinmouth Safety Committee and the Tinmouth Community Church Board. In 2016, I served as the Chairperson of the town's Personnel Policy Committee.

My most important qualification is that I am the mother of a current (and also a future) Tinmouth student, therefore, I am personally a stakeholder in the continuation of a curriculum that supports the high quality education we have been so fortunate to have.

I hope that you will consider voting for me and in return I will promise to represent the students of Tinmouth and advocate for our Tinmouth Mountain School.

If you have questions or would like to talk with me, please email me at aamartone@rrmc.org or call me at (802) 345-1854. Thank you in advance for your consideration as a candidate for this very important position.

Sincerely,
Amy Martone

~ **Non-Traditional Scholarships** ~

Bob Emerick would like to remind seniors at Mill River Union High School, that he and his brother Jack, are sponsors for non-traditional scholarships. If you are planning on taking a gap year or attending a trade school, please see the Mill River UHS guidance counselor for details and an application.

~ **Tales of Tinmouth** ~

In 2018, the *Tales of Tinmouth* published twelve issues. Total expenses for paper, labels, printing and postage was \$3,306.57. Revenues, which consisted of donations, a Tinmouth Community Fund grant and ads, totaled \$3,725.42. We are in the black!!

Many, many thanks to everyone who sent a donation to help pay for paper, printing and postage. Many thanks too, to the numerous folks who show up each month to fold, tape, and label.

Vermont poet John G. Saxe:

“Vermont is famous for four productions – Men, Women, Maple Sugar, and Horses.

The first are strong,

The last are fleet,

The second and third exceedingly sweet,

And all are extremely hard to beat.”



~ Tinmouth Community Church ~



TINMOUTH
CHURCH

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite parts of the holidays is those evenings when we gather around the table with friends and family. This year there was the usual laughter and storytelling and wonderful food, but conversations also ventured deep into issues that we all too often gloss over. It felt good to talk about things that really matter, with people who were willing to tackle the issues even if they didn't always agree with one another. In fact, this is what really stands out for me, that we *did* disagree, and yet were able to keep the lines of communication open. I think a part of this is that many of the folks around the table were people I knew pretty well, and they knew me also. Over the years, we have shared our stories, the ups and downs, our successes and our failures. Essentially, we trust one another, and so that frees us up to speak the truth of our hearts and minds, even when it is different from the truth of others who sit around the table with us.

We just celebrated the New Year, and along with that come all kind of hopes and dreams, and, dare I say *resolutions*? A New Year feels like a fresh, clean slate, an opportunity to finally get things right in our lives, our homes, and our relationships. Folks in the churches I serve have been reading and discussing *The Anatomy of Peace* by The Arbinger Institute. It is a book that has given us all insight into why there is so much tension in our country today between people who see things from differing perspectives. The main point they make goes back to a philosopher I read in college, Martin Buber. In Buber's famous book, *I and Thou*, he spoke of how vital it is for true relationship, that we see one another as "*Thou*" rather than "*It*." When you use the word "*thou*," it offers respect to the other, it shows that there is a relationship of equality and valuing between you. When you use the word "*it*," the very word creates separation, and sees the other as being not quite as important as yourself.

Those deep dinner table conversations that I so enjoyed went well because the people around the table were in "*I - Thou*" relationships with one another. They trusted one another. They respected one another's opinions and insights, even if they disagreed with them. I long for this kind of conversation. I would love to see a transformation of respect happen throughout our country, where right now, people often don't feel safe articulating what they think and feel. I would love to see us all try a little harder to see one another as "*Thou*"; to give each other respect, rather than dismissing people we don't know, or those who are different from ourselves as "*It*",

as someone who isn't worthy, who is somehow less important than us.

Although I am dreaming big when I imagine the entire country or world adopting these principles, I believe that this kind of transformation of culture starts small. It starts with me and it starts with you. It starts with us getting to know one another as people, plain and simple. People with the same kinds of hopes and dreams we all have. It starts in our own hearts and minds, where we set the intention to see one another as equal persons, worthy of our respect, and then we offer this respect to each other in the form of an open mind, and the simple open-hearted compassion and curiosity of one human being toward another.

May this New Year usher in a new season of kindness and compassion in our every relationship. May we be curious about one another, and have a deep desire to understand each other. May we care about and respect each other. Together, we can create the kind of world in which we want to live.

*Blessings,
Shirley*

P.S. You are warmly invited to join in worship at Tinmouth Community Church any Sunday morning beginning at 9am, where we strive to be the kind of community that treats each person with respect and care.

~ Recipe Corner ~

Tortellini Soup



2 tablespoons olive oil
One medium onion, diced
2 cloves garlic
2 lb. bulk pork sausage or 1 lb. turkey sausage
6 cups of chicken broth
One 28 oz. can of tomatoes
One 19 oz. can of cannellini beans, washed and drained
Two 9-oz. packages tortellini
1 pkg. frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
¼ teaspoon (or more to taste) basil, oregano and black pepper
Grated parmesan or pecorino cheese

Sauté sausage, onion and garlic in olive oil. Stir in remaining ingredients (except tortellini and spinach) and bring to boil. Add tortellini and cook until almost done, then add spinach and simmer until tortellini is done.

Serve with grated cheese.

Got a favorite recipe you are willing to share? Please send it/them to Shirley Bucceri at smhb@vermontel.net or 49 North End Road, Tinmouth, VT 05773. Thanks!



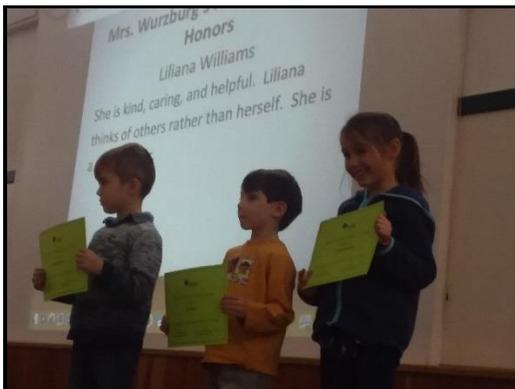
To the Tinmouth Community,

It's been a bit chilly this month! On a few occasions we kept students inside for recess but for the most part, the children have embraced the chilly temperatures by building snow forts and sledding. During one particularly cold recess, the preK students spontaneously told the entire student body to line up several minutes earlier to return to class. The staff on recess duty were taken by surprise and delighted with their initiative!

Students, teachers, and families attended our Martin Luther King, Jr. presentation on January 18th. Students celebrated the beliefs and actions of Dr. King that changed our nation and continue to impact our country to this day. The following students were nominated by classmates for demonstrating attributes we recognized in Martin Luther King, Jr.: **Chase Buffum, Ben Fallar, Liliana Williams, Ari Fallar, Isaac Smith, Selah Marjorell, Miles Fallar, and Lamont Jones.**

On Friday, January 25th, we began our Winter Sports Program at Okemo Ski Resort. Children chose to downhill ski, snowboard, ice skate, or cross-country ski. Unfortunately, the Nordic center was closed due to icy conditions after this week's ice storm, so skating was offered as an alternative activity. We are grateful for the community volunteers who taught students new to their sport and monitored small groups of children in the ice rink and on the ski slope. We couldn't have run this program without these volunteers! The program will continue on Fridays for 5 more weeks.

Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker
Principal, Tinmouth Mountain School



Chase Buffum, Benjamin Fallar and Liliana Williams receiving their MLK awards.



Students at the skating rink!

~ **Our School Taxes** ~

By Andy Richards-Peele,
Mill River School Board Finance Committee Chair.

This is really about our schools, taxes, a bond issue, continuous improvement, and what the Mill River School Board will have on the Town Meeting Day ballot. There is a good deal to discuss, but all comes down to the checks we write and give to your town treasurer, Gail Fallar, by August 15 and November 15.

We have reduced staffing over the last 3 years to reflect the decrease in enrollment and have consolidated services. These actions have allowed our budgets to stay fairly level. We have also benefitted from the declining tax rate reduction we received for stepping up to Act 46 and merging promptly. This year it is only two cents on the tax rate. The school board and administrators are committed to making our district schools some of the best in the state. If you look at realtors' ads, houses in our district are frequently noted as being in the "Mill River School District" which is an indicator of the recognition we are starting to receive.

Working toward excellence, the board and administrators made two decisions which have a direct impact upon the 2019-2020 budget. First is an expansion of our PreK (Pre-kindergarten) programming for 3 and 4 year olds at all four elementary schools. This will include the option of after school childcare for families that need it. Research has documented early education increases success for all students. Many working families with 3 and 4 year olds have not been able to take advantage of Pre-K because our 3 year old program ends at 12:30 and is only for three days. Many 4 year olds need after school for 3 to 5:30. By adding the childcare component (for which fees will be charged to those who can afford them) we look forward to making this programming available to more of our families.

In addition, we are enhancing our focus on the arts at Mill River Union High School. In addition to the

immediate benefit of more arts related courses for Mill River students, this will continue to solidify the recognition of Mill River as being the premier arts school of the region. The reality of decreasing student enrollment in Vermont is that area high schools are in competition for students from tuition-paying high school choice towns. Steps we take now to move our schools toward recognition as *the* schools to attend will help us if local enrollment decreases.

The school board is also asking voters approve a bond for \$2.3 million to fund energy efficiency upgrades. This bond, called a Performance Contract bond, will be tax neutral, meaning it will have no impact upon taxes. The savings and built in efficiencies from the performance contract are guaranteed by the contractor to equal the cost of the bond. If it doesn't the contractor must pay the shortfall. The bond will allow us to replace and upgrade heating and ventilation systems, install solar panels at Mill River, and reduce lighting costs. Yes, the district voters did pass a bond for \$3.5 million just last year, so why the 2nd bond? The first bond only covered the biggest and most immediately needed building maintenance work (primarily roofing, siding, insulation, and building envelope). Frankly we did not think voters were prepared to shoulder the full cost of \$6 million in repairs. We knew that either we would do the remainder with annual budgets, or perhaps we could make a performance contract work – as we are now ready to do. This second bond allows us to continue with the important and necessary improvements (which must be addressed and paid for at some point) while not increasing taxes.

The Numbers

Now the numbers ~ These numbers are for the budget lines with the largest changes. With a budget this size there are so many changes it would take pages to list them all.

Staffing changes

- 6.5 positions are being eliminated
- +5.45 positions added for the expanded pre-K program and childcare
- +1.5 positions added for the expanded arts focus at Mill River

There are other staffing changes which include combining positions and reassignment of duties but defy a simple + or - symbols and classification.

+ 4.60 is the TOTAL change in staffing positions (not including special education)

Other changes

- + \$295,000 for contractual salary increases
- +\$150,000 for increased health insurance premiums
- \$68,154 in energy efficiency savings if the bond passes, which would pay for....
- +\$68,154 in bond expense if the bond passes

\$17,686,679 is the TOTAL of the district budget, this is an increase from the current year of \$859,453 which is an increase of 5.11%

The State establishes our tax rate after the Legislature goes home in June. We can only estimate it. The tax rate for the District is the same in each town. However, the state applies a number called "Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) to account for different assessment practices in each town. If property in a town is underassessed (worth more), the CLA will raise the school tax rate. If it is worth less than the assessment, the CLA will lower the rate. After the state completes its calculations, we ESTIMATE tax rates by town are potentially impacted as follows:

Clarendon	4.32%	Shrewsbury	6.78%
Tinmouth	4.19%	Wallingford	8.31%

Despite the difference in tax rates a house actually worth \$200,000 will pay the same amount in each town. The state changes the tax rate rather than assessments. Our Tinmouth CLA is .9915, meaning our listers are almost exactly correct.

If you have questions please come the Mill River annual meeting or call Tinmouth's representative, Grant Reynolds, at 446-3457. **The Annual Meeting is 7:00 Tuesday February 28th at the Mill River school library.** That meeting will include an informational meeting about the bond issue.

Dog Owners Reminded to Keep Dogs Under Control

MONTPELIER, Vt. – The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department reminds dog owners that they must keep their dogs under control to prevent them from chasing deer or moose.

Vermont law prohibits letting your dog run deer or moose and provides that a State Game Warden or other law enforcement officers may shoot a dog that is running deer. In addition, a dog owner may be fined up to \$200 for allowing his or her dog to run deer.

"Dogs will instinctively chase and kill deer and usually once they start, they will continue doing so, especially in winters with much snow," said Chief Game Warden Col. Jason Batchelder. "In almost all cases, these are wonderful family pets and their owners cannot comprehend that their dog would kill a deer."

Deer survive during the winter by browsing on low-growing hardwood and softwood vegetation, which has little nutrition compared to the lush vegetation they can eat during the rest of the year. Their energy reserves are at their lowest, leaving them vulnerable to starvation, especially if they are chased by dogs.

"We are issuing this reminder to make dog owners aware of the law and to urge them to keep their dogs under control so they won't chase deer," added Batchelder. "We responded to about 60 incidents of dogs chasing deer during each of the last five years."

~ Letter to the Editor ~

Please Vote No on Article #5 of the Town Meeting Warning

Article # 5 ~ Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$600 to the Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce and the Rutland Economic Development Corporation to support the Regional Marketing Initiative ?

I was appalled at last year's Town Meeting that there was any proposal that included providing funds to REDC after how that organization betrayed our town sixteen years ago during the OMYA fight. We went ahead and passed it through with the understanding that this line item would be reconsidered for a year before adding it to the annual list of organizations we fund.

Now we have had time to see if we have benefited in any meaningful way from our investment and from what I see we have not. Our money was given to what is called "Real Rutland" an organization with the mandate to promote Rutland county as a preferred place for people from out of state to settle. One can argue from either side as to whether this is a good idea but even if you think it is, I can't see from my research that we are getting much of a return for our money. For \$600 we have a thirty second drone shot of the Tinmouth Channel and one paragraph of description. I've been told that there was an interview with a Tinmouth couple, new to town, but I can't find it anywhere on line. That's it.

Real Rutland may have our interests in mind but I'm convinced that their entire program is a flawed instrument. They try to portray us from a distance with no editorial input or control from those of us who live here. One of the huge lessons we learned during the OMYA fight was to never let anyone else define our narrative. Even the well intentioned can get it very wrong. Part of our response back then was to produce our own video with the help of the Orton Foundation, where we interviewed dozens and dozens of our fellow Tinmouthians and painted a real picture of what life was like here and what was expected from us who lived here. It was called "Tinmouth, Vermont: Diverse Community in the Landscape". You can get your own copy at the town office.

I would suggest that, should we decide to promote ourselves, rather than spending \$600 per year for inclusion in this ten year effort by outsiders, we could put our own video on line at little cost and cut out the middle man. That \$6,000 could perhaps pay for a couple of doors on the new town garage we may have to bond for. Which is a better use of our hard earned tax money?

Michael Fannin
Tinmouthian

(Editor's Note: This is a public question to be voted from the floor at town meeting. You must be there to vote.)

~Meeting Highlights~

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

Select Board ~ 1/10/19 Regular Meeting

Present were members Michael Fallar, Frank Sears, and Cathy Reynolds, as well as Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Chuck Bronk, Matt Patry, Grant Reynolds, Jo Reynolds, Michael Fannin and Gail Fallar – Board Asst.

Financial Report – Board reviewed and voted to approve.

Highway – Eric advised all is good, has been installing the safety cameras on all the trucks and equipment.

Michael Fannin, as Emergency Management Coordinator, advised that VTRANS has emergency funds if a town needs it when emergency costs exceed 10% of its annual highway budget.

Frank read an **email from Shannon Zandy** regarding road conditions on Harrington Cross Road and the area at the end of North End Road and Route 140 when she is trying to get her children to the bus stop. Eric will take care of it.

Matt expressed concern with the condition of the North East Road from his house south to the top of the hill. It needs more sand. A number of folks have or almost slid off the road.

Highway Draft FY20 Budget ~ Board discussed request for \$10,000 for part time help, decided to try \$5,000, for the purpose of filling in when one road crew member is on vacation or perhaps when there is a major snow storm. Eric advised that some state highways workers may be available for part time summer work, they have CDL's, experience driving big trucks, etc.

Chloride program ~ Eric noted it helps keep the gravel on the road and provides dust control as a side benefit. Michael expressed concern about side effects of the chloride, would prefer to see ditching and shoulder work done first. Matt also expressed concern with the proposed chloride project. Some forms of the chloride are very harmful to amphibians and wood frogs, of which there are many near his property. He suggested using calcium chloride, lesser of evils, noting chloride with magnesium is very nasty. He gave Eric data from Canada about it.

Cathy noted that the state is advising towns to use it this way, as a Best Management Practice. She is willing to try it for three years. Michael Fannin noted he was in favor of it for dust control, he has been begging for years for relief from the dust near his house.

Eric also noted that the state prefers the chloride to the gravel run off when roads wash out. This proposal is for summer use. Frank moved to add the \$12,000 for chloride to the budget, Cathy 2nded. They both voted in favor, Michael voted no.

Civil Engineering – The newly hired civil engineer has been having health problems. Tabled until special meeting on the 24th.

Practice regarding when to plow, when to sand, when to salt, was postponed until January 24th.

Others ~

Michael Fannin expressed concern with the Real Rutland request for more funding at town meeting. He has researched on-line and spoken with Frank, and still is leery of REDC (Rutland Economic Development Corporation) given their past support of the proposed OMYA trucking project through Tinmouth a number of years ago. Cathy noted it is supporting the greater Rutland community.

Procurement/Purchase Guidance – After brief discussion, Board voted to approve as drafted.

At this point, Michael Fannin, Matt and Eric departed the meeting.

Rutland County Sheriff's Department ~ Frank reported cost per hour was staying the same for FY20, \$38.09 for the four town consortium, he also asked them for more coverage on the East Road.

Board voted to ratify Board Chair Frank signing of a Hazard Mitigation Grant document.

General Budget – Board reviewed proposed general budget for FY20 – the need to replace the roof over the library section of the town office though that would not be a budgeted item, it would come out of the special building repair fund. Gail advised that the increase in the select board assistant line item was due to increased work load. In fact, this year's budget has already nearly been spent and we are only half way through it. Board tentatively approved both the highway and general FY20 budgets – final review will be on the 24th.

Town Meeting Warning ~ Board reviewed draft, decided to add request for special fund for computer and website support so that money not spent can be carried forward for that purpose.

Cathy presented a request from Doug Fontein regarding placing an article on the warning about climate control. Cathy recused herself (married to the requestor), Frank and Michael decided that the Board would need a petition to consider it.

Town Report ~ Select Board edited their annual report.

Old Business ~

Trash on Mountain View Road – recent article in the Rutland Herald about Rutland Town's actions regarding trash clean-up needs some research.

Special Meeting ~ Board decided to have a special meeting on January 24th to review/approve and sign the warning for town meeting, finalize budgets, etc.

Select Board ~ 1/24/19 ~ Special Meeting

Present were members Michael Fallar, Cathy Reynolds, and Frank Sears, as well as Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Chuck Bronk, Jo Reynolds, Grant Reynolds, and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant

Public Works Facilities ~ Board briefly reviewed civil engineer Don Woods email, he will have more information at the next Board meeting, advised that his report may not be ready for town meeting.

Snow Plow Practice ~ Board voted to approve and then signed it.

FY 20 Proposed Budgets ~ After brief discussion Board voted to approve a highway budget of \$551,950 and a general budget of \$236,240.

Board signed annual **Certificate of Highway Mileage**. No changes.

Climate Change Resolution Petition for Warning ~ Board briefly discussed, then voted to add it to the warning.

Roller Shelving ~ Gail advised that she is purchasing used roller shelving for the town's vault. Money will come from the Records Restoration Fund.

Solid Waste Ordinance ~ On advice from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, Board will add a section regarding enforcement of the ordinance in regards to trash disposal on one's own property. Will review at the next Board meeting on February 14th.

Town Meeting Warning ~ Board finalized warning, approved and signed it.

Planning Commission ~ 1/17/19

Present were members Vito Macaluso, Pat Psholka, Grant Reynolds, Michael Fallar, Kim Harbaugh, and Rainbow Squier, as well as Gail Fallar, Secretary.

Village Center Designation ~ Members discussed next steps needed, Grant raised concern with the state eventually requiring towns to plan for development around village centers. Members voted to proceed with the application process for Village Center Designation.

Enhanced Energy Planning ~ Michael advised that Wallingford is nearly done with theirs. Barbara at RRPC was asked to review what Tinmouth currently has in its town plan to see what else would be needed – has not yet provided that. Members discussed various scenarios of landowners and renewal energy developers; whether to encourage as many property owners as possible to install solar panels on their roof tops; whether to develop a map for potential developers; the requirement for the town to plan – not develop a project; etc.

Members discussed town meeting, Gail read the climate change resolution to be discussed there.

It was noted there is still a vacancy on the zoning board of adjustment, no one volunteered. There are currently two PC members on the ZBA.

Conservation Commission ~ 1/21/19

With thanks to Chuck Bronk, Secretary

Present were members Doug Fontein, Jo Reynolds, Nelson Jaquay, Robbie Leeds, and Chuck Bronk, as well as Gail Fallar.

Old Business:

Doug has had a response to an email to Pam Johnstone regarding the potential need for switchbacks at the steepest part of the trail. He still has had no response from the landowner. The matter was tabled for the time being.

Doug posed the question as to whether the Conservation Commission should acquire additional amphibian crossing signs from Green Screen Graphics. The group agreed that we should acquire two more signs and Doug offered to provide a bridge loan if the current budget balance was insufficient to cover the cost of two signs. Robbie agreed to inquire as to what the cost of the signs would be, were we to purchase two.

Rainbow Squier was unable to attend this meeting due to a prior commitment. The matter of a possible future Invasives Control Project was tabled for now.

Robbie reported that once the weather clears he intends to use the All Trails app to clean up and extend the Ridge Trail map and continue his efforts to the Purchase Loop. Doug confirmed that we have an existing map of the Purchase Loop trail and offered to provide it to Robbie.

Nelson Jaquay described the current status of the Trout in the Our Schools project at Tinmouth Mountain School. Trout eggs have hatched in the 40 gallon tank and the fry are currently contained in a floating nursery. The intent is that once grown, the trout will be released into the Tinmouth Channel.

Doug fabricated a wooden dispenser box for the tri-fold flyers for the Tinmouth Mountain Ridge Trail. Chuck is working on the attachment of necessary signage and agreed to be responsible to stock the flyers as needed once the box is mounted on the trail kiosk.

Doug outlined the steps that he and Nelson have taken to meet with the Drachmans and explore the possibility of clearing a loop trail for use by Tinmouth residents in honor of Bob Drachman. Doug shared map on his phone and explained that the trailhead of the loop trail would be at a former log landing just off Crow Hill Road across from Tim Smith's property. This would allow for a parking area that would not inconvenience Ruth Drachman. He also described a possible spur trail up to a stone bench. Nelson is working on the wording of signage for the trailhead and Doug will work on a draft memorandum of agreement for review at the next meeting. Once signed by the Drachmans, clearing and blazing could proceed. So far the following stipulations have been discussed with the Drachman family:

- No access to the trail in mud season
- Stay on the blazed trail
- Pack in and out

Parking only at the trail head

Dogs on leash

No motorized vehicles, no bicycles

Trail for use by hikers, x-c skiers, snowshoers only

Only available to Tinmouth residents, not a public trail.

New Business:

Doug forwarded to members prior to the meeting, an email from Monica Pryzperhart of the Community Wildlife Project, laying out a number of questions to be discussed regarding the formation in Tinmouth of a Conservation Fund. As preparation for Ms. Pryzperhart's attendance at our next meeting members began a discussion of answers to the questions she posed.

What exactly would you do with the fund? Members agreed that educational programs in Tinmouth Mountain School, such as Four Winds and Trout in Our Schools would be a likely recipients of such funds, as would trail network support, tools for trail maintenance, and improvements to the Tinmouth Mountain Cabin. It seemed unlikely that we would support riparian restoration, as most all of the riparian land in the township is State land. An ongoing program to maintain duck boxes in the Channel might become a funded project in the future. Acquisition of additional land for wildlife conservation and recreation might also be funded in this manner. The funding of educational talks like those that the Commission has funded in past would also fit within the goals of such a fund.

How much money would be needed and how would it be allocated? Members agreed that an annual contribution of \$500/year to a special fund would be sufficient. Such a fund would also allow for the accumulation of donations, bequests and endowments.

How would the fund be administered? Members had no strong feelings on whether the Commission would have complete control over use of the fund or whether this control would reside with the Select Board upon recommendations from the Commission. Members wondered how this was done in other towns. Would control be based on the amount of the expenditure?

Where does the money come from? Consensus was that the source of funds would be a line item in the Town budget, supplemented with grant funding, donations, bequests, and possibly endowments.

Members agreed that we would continue these discussions at our next meeting with Monica Pryzperhart in March.

Members discussed a number of possible future projects. Doug suggested that we help with bridge construction at the Greenwall Shelter on the Appalachian/Long Trail. Robbie suggested publicized day hikes of our trails after mud season.

Next Meeting was set for March 18, 2019 and a special meeting set for April 15, 2019 to discuss Green Up day, which is scheduled for May 4, 2019

Safety and Wellness Committee ~ 1/16/19

Present were members Amy Martone, Frank Sears, Ray Pratt, Ronnie Crossman, and Gail Fallar, as well as Wade Masure – VLCT PACIF, and Sherry Johnson.

There was a brief discussion that the minutes contained a quote from the structural engineer regarding the current town garage. Gail advised that the Select Board has hired a civil engineer to work on storm water issues. Wade advised that Grafton and Winhall had recently build salt/sand sheds, one of them stick built – not a canvas top. Committee reported no near misses. No concerns.

Wade Masure from the insurance company (PACIF) suggested looking for fire detection equipment for the town office and fire house for this year's safety grant. Ray advised that in the past the ongoing cost was too expensive, but will re-consider.

There was concern expressed to Wade to bring back to the PACIF Grant Committee that turnout gear for firemen have a shelf life and should not be restricted to only a one time grant award. He was also asked if a town could use "in kind" work as their match for the grant, as the road crew is installing the safety cameras. The answer is no, the Grant Committee does not allow that.

Next meeting is April 17, 2019.

Solid Waste and Recycling Committee ~ 1/16/19

With thanks to Helen Mango, Secretary

Present were members Wheaton Squier, Gail Fallar, Jonathan Czar, Chris Martone and Helen Mango (secretary), as well as Sherry Johnson.

Gail reported that the status of the Transfer Station remains about the same. The Select Board has hired a civil engineer to work on storm water issues. They hope to have a report by Town Meeting.

The updated Solid Waste Ordinance was discussed. Helen discussed the changes that were suggested by a lawyer from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Most were just adding statute language to the existing draft. Remaining minor work on the ordinance needs to be done by the Select Board.

The Committee discussed what to put in the Town Report. It will include a welcome to Chris as the new Transfer Station Manager.

Next meeting of the SWARC is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2019, at 5:00 p.m.

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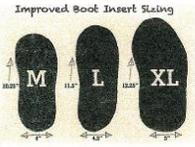
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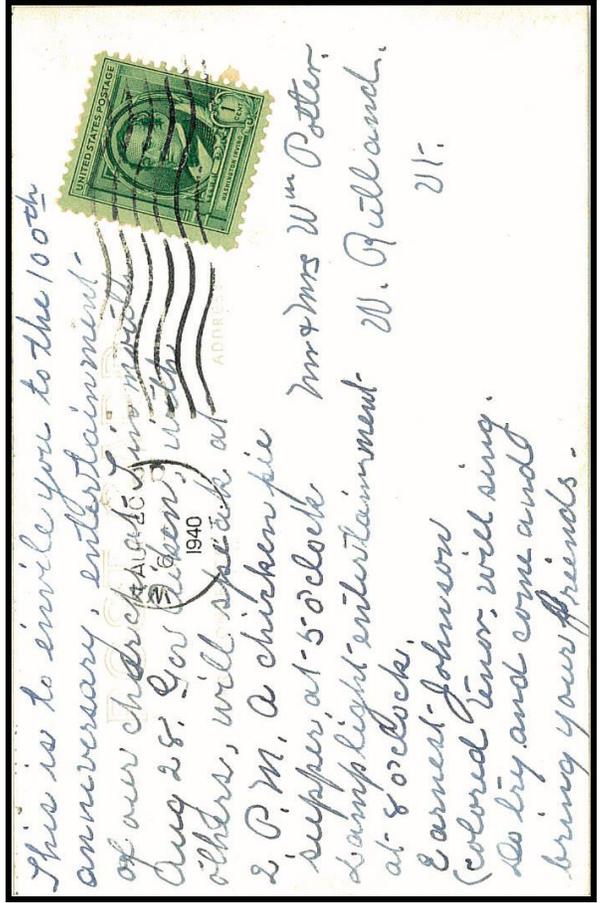
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