

TALES OF TINMOUTH

January 2020

Vol. 34 Number 1

Tinmouth

Vermont

Editors' Notes: *May your New Year be filled with Health and Happiness!! Pray for Peace. . .*

The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the preceding month. Please email your information to *Tales of Tinmouth* (tinmouthtales@vermontel.net) or drop it off at the Town Office.

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

Apologies for this issue being a tad delayed, life happens. . . .

Pat Psholka, Helen Mango & Gail Fallar

~ Town Meeting 2020 ~

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

Moderator - Town - 1 year term
Select Board Member - 3 year term
Community Center Board Member – 2 year term
Town Clerk – 3 year term
Town Treasurer – 3 year term
Lister - 3 year term
Auditor - 3 year term
Town Agent - 1 year term
Grand Juror - 1 year term
Tax Collector (Delinquent) - 1 year term

Town Meeting is **Saturday, February 29th** this year. Public questions and budgets will be voted from the floor at the Community Center. Officers will be chosen on **Tuesday, March 3rd** via Australian balloting, or you may cast an early/absentee ballot for that election. The Select Board is working on having a bond vote financing a new town garage on the 3rd as well. And don't forget the Presidential Primary will also be on March 3rd!!

Petitions for Articles to be placed on the town meeting warning are due by 5:00 pm **Thursday, January 16th**. 5% of voters (20) must sign the petition. Voters must be registered to vote in Tinmouth.

If you wish to run for office, you must file a petition with the town clerk with **five** voter's signatures by 5:00 PM Monday, **January 27th**. Petitions are available at the town office. Candidates must also sign a consent form.

Sherry Johnson has announced that she is NOT running for re-election as **auditor**. If you like numbers, have had some experience auditing, or would just like to help out, please consider filing a petition. You can check the Tinmouth Operator's Manual for a description of what an auditor does.

~ Tinmouth Community Fund Grants ~

By Jan Krantz, Chair

The Tinmouth Community Fund (TCF)'s annual grant cycle is beginning. We start the year off with Community Fund Project grants. Applications for these grants need to be completed and returned to the Town Office, or emailed to: krantzkj@vermontel.net by **January 31, 2020**. The K-12 Camp Scholarship applications are due **April 1**, and accepted until funds are expended. The Continuing Education Scholarship applications are due **May 15**. You can pick up grant applications at the Town Office, or download each form from the town's website: **<http://www.tinmouthvt.org/resources/>**. We appreciate it if you can please complete and send them in **electronically**. Thank you!

We are always looking for new ideas to fulfill TCF's purpose: "To provide funding of needed services and facilities for the well-being of the citizens of and for the sense of community in the town of Tinmouth."

To give you a sense of the type of projects that might be funded, think in terms of the following activity areas: history, culture, arts, recreation, social services, education, health, conservation, environment, aesthetics, and community development. If you are considering a project that fits in any of these areas, download the application today. Might it be computer classes for elders, or Thanksgiving dinners for shut-ins or singles either at home or the community center, a movie series or special program at the Old Firehouse? Use your imagination, take some action, create something fun and interesting for your town. Won't you give it a try?

Community Fund Project grant awards will be announced at the Tinmouth Community Fund's Annual Meeting on **February 29th**, just before Town Meeting at the Community Center at **11:30 a.m.** Hope you can join us!

Jan Krantz, Chair, Tinmouth Community Fund

~ Job opening at the Town Office ~

I need someone to help with town clerk, treasurer, and bookkeeper duties - part time. Computer skills, attention to detail, good people skills, and flexible schedule required.

Please call Gail at 446-2498 or email tinmouthtown@vermontel.net for more details.

January 2020 Calendar of Events

Town Office	Wednesday	1 st	CLOSED for the Holiday
Transfer Station	Wednesday	1 st	CLOSED for the Holiday
Fire Department	Thursday	2 nd	7:00 Fire House
Select Board	Thursday	9 th	7:00 Town Office
Town Mtg. Article Petitions Due	Thursday	16 th	5:00 Town Office
Planning Commission			No Meeting this month.
Contra Dance	Friday	17 th	8:00 Community Center
Writers' & Book Discussion	Sunday	19 th	3:00 Ruth Drachman's
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Monday	20 th	Don't Miss It!
Select Board – Special	Tuesday	21 st	7:00 Town Office
Free Ice Fishing Day	Saturday	25 th	Frozen Lakes and Pond all over Vermont!
THGS	Sunday	26 th	2:00 Town Office
Officer Petitions Due	Monday	27 th	5:00 Town Office
TCF Grant Deadline	Thursday	31 st	Town Office or TCF

February 2020 Calendar of Events

Library OPEN	Saturday	2 nd	9-12	Library
Fire Dept.	Thursday	6 th	7:00	Fire House
Select Board	Thursday	13 th	7:00	Town Office
Conservation Commission	Monday	18 th	7:30	Town Office
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Thursday	20 th		Don't Miss It!
Planning Commission	Thursday	20 st	7:00	Town Office
THGS	Sunday	23 rd	2:00	Town Office
TCF Annual Meeting	Saturday	29 th	11:30 AM	Community Center
Town Meeting (Floor)	Saturday	29 th	1:00	Community Center

March 2020 Calendar of Events

Town Meeting (Officers)				
Bond Vote	Tuesday	3 rd	8:00 am – 7:00	Community Center
School Budget				
Presidential Primary				

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

~ January reminder from your local Fire Department (TVFD) ~

Please remember to keep your walkways shoveled and clear – *even to the doors you only use occasionally* – you never know when you might need the Rescue Squad or which door they may need to use. Goes for the inside too, don't block doorways with 'stuff'. You may need to make a hasty exit (in case of fire) or the Fire Department may need to get in.

TVFD also reminds everyone to make sure that your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working and that you have more than one way out of your house!

~ Vermont's Free Ice Fishing Day is January 25th ~

NORTH HERO, Vt. – Vermont's sixth annual Free Ice Fishing Day is Saturday, January 25, 2020.

Free Ice Fishing Day is held annually on the last Saturday in January. The day is geared toward giving new ice anglers an opportunity to try ice fishing before purchasing equipment, but any angler may ice fish on any waterbody open to ice fishing statewide without a fishing license on Free Ice Fishing Day.

To learn more about ice fishing in Vermont or to purchase a fishing license, visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com



To the Tinmouth Community,

There were three weeks of school in December and they seemed to advance quite quickly. The students were focused on collecting can goods for the Tinmouth food bank as well as our annual caroling event.

Fourth, fifth, and sixth graders created cookie jars to gift the folks whose houses we caroled at. On December 18th, the students in grades kindergarten through sixth grade traveled to various homes around town sharing song and seasonal cheer.

Each class read about the various holidays celebrated in December including Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. First and second graders were busy “racking” (**R**andom **A**cts of **C**hristmas **K**indness) peers and staff alike. When asked What Christmas was about, the responses included the following:

Christmas is not about the presents. Christmas is all about the care that we share. –Emma

Family and Jesus and friends. –Addy

Christmas is about giving presents... -Carson

...and the best things in life are for free. –Liliana

Christmas is about sharing and caring. It's also about giving and not getting...Fiona

Christmas is not about getting, it is about giving...Zeke

How selfless these young scholars are!

Wishing you health and prosperity in the New Year!

*Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker
Principal
Tinmouth Mountain School*

**The flu has arrived - keep washing your hands!!
And please stay home if you are ill.
Everyone thanks you for that!!**

~ Library News ~
By Ruth Drachman

Happy New Year from the librarian and the Library trustees. We all hope that the new year will bring you good health and happiness, as well as many good books to read!

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.

The Writing Group and the Book Discussion Group will meet at Ruth Drachman's house on **Sunday, January 19th at 3:00** for a Pot Luck Dinner, to celebrate the Holiday season. **Join us!**

There are many new books for the New Year for adults and for children. Come and check us out!!

We also have bags of books all ready to be checked out. The bags are “**Theme Bags**” and have books appropriate for children ages 3 through 8. Each bag contains 6 or 7 books on a specific theme, for instance; colors, arctic animals, dinosaurs, or transportation. Come and check one out! They are all set to go!

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., and the morning of the first Saturday of the month.

~ 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.

~ THGS ~

The Tinmouth Historical and Genealogical Society will meet on **Sunday, January 26th** at the town office to continue archiving work - sorting photos, papers and ephemera at the town office – and working on plan for the future of THGS.

**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.



TINMOUTH
CHURCH

~ Tinmouth Community Church ~

Dear Friends,

“The steadfast love of God never ceases, God’s mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning, so great is God’s faithfulness” (Lamentations).

A new year, a new beginning. Each day, a new beginning. Again and again, we are beginning again. If we see this mercy of God, we don’t have to be locked into the past or at a stalemate with the present or believe we have no future.

Our beginning again, though, may necessitate a new beginning – new thinking, new choices, new behaviors, new (whatever you need to change) if we are not to repeat previous mistakes or remain hostage to an engraved condition. Divine mercy is present and available for the asking. Indeed, even our struggles are meant to take us to God, such is God’s faithfulness. In this new year, be on the lookout for how this divine assistance comes to you (naturally/supernaturally).

There is an instructive story that comes from our monastic friends. A visitor asked a monk, “What do you do in a monastery?” And the monastic replied, “Well, we fall and we get up and we fall and we get up and we fall and we get up.”

And we begin again....

*Blessed New Year,
Pastor John*

~ Community News ~

Thank you to **Tina, Gregg, and Jessica Casey** (*Vermont Wreath Company*) for the lovely wreath they donated to the town office.

Get Well Wishes are sent to **Cris Carabeau, Burritt Larson, Cathy Ricketts and everyone with colds and flu.**

Heartfelt Sympathies are sent to friends and family of **Elbert Crosby and Midge Sherman**; to **Paul Larson** and family for the loss of his Mom; and to **Karen Morris** and family for the loss of her Dad.

~ Community News ~

Kudos and Thank You to the many Elves who worked (shopping for food, shopping for gifts (and clothes), wrapping gifts, sorting food, and packing boxes, donations of food, donations of \$'s, donations of time, making cookies, sweet breads, nut butter, set-up and clean-up) to share the Christmas spirit with 20 families who received food baskets (3 or 4 boxes of food) and toys/clothes for those with children and 20 fruit baskets delivered to some of our elders, those with the loss of a loved one, those in need of a kind act, etc. (all separate from the other 20)! They were very much appreciated.

Thanks are also extended to Mill River Union High School’s National Honor Society and the Mill River Unified Union School District for all the fixings for a turkey dinner and more; Operation Dolls and More for gifts for little ones; and Thomas' Dairy for milk and eggs. And for the food drive organized by the Wallingford Rescue Squad and another by the Tinmouth Elementary School. The food shelf at the Town Office has been restocked as well, thanks to those efforts. If you need a bit of help with food, please stop in! Or if you can spare non-perishables (pasta, tuna, beans, laundry detergent, toilet paper, etc.) please drop them off.

There were about two dozen carolers (ages 9 months to 75 years young) out and about just before Christmas. Voices were well tuned, very harmonious and wonderful to listen to and sing along with. What a great on-going tradition!! Tinmouth’s three nonagenarians(over 90 years young) Rose, Pauline and Marion enjoyed being serenaded!!

Dear Carolers,

It warmed my heart to see you all and to hear your beautiful voices! Thank you so much for coming to my home.

Rose Napolitano

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

The Holiday Open House at the Town Office was treated to the wonderful Christmas music provided by the electrified bells of **David Uber**. It was a trip down memory lane . . . David was a long time Tinmouth resident, professor and musician, who loved to entertain the carolers with music when they came calling each year. He even composed a Tinmouth song.

~Meeting Highlights~

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

Select Board ~ 12/12/18

Present were members Michael Fallar, Frank Sears – via telephone (not feeling well), and Cathy Reynolds – via telephone as well until 8:15 (she was on her way back from the Boston airport), as well as Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Jo Reynolds, Grant Reynolds, Sarah Aines and Brian Phillioe and Wes Usher (Rutland County Restorative Justice Center), Doug Fontien via telephone until he dropped Cathy off, and Gail Fallar.

Rutland County Restorative Justice Center – Sarah requested funding from the town to support the non-profit that hosts several programs designed to prevent individuals’ future adverse involvement in the legal system, for young folks and adults. RCRJC receives some funding from the United Way and this year decided to ask towns to help as well. She suggested \$1 per person - \$600. Cathy asked her to return in January with more details and explained that if an article is added to the town meeting warning, she would need to be at town meeting to explain the request and purpose of the organization. Sarah agreed.

Highway ~

Eric – He advised a culvert was patched on Merrill Spring Road, and hopes it will last until spring when it will be replaced. Frank questioned the repair bill for the orange truck(2013), Eric advised it had a lot of needs, had it all fixed. (nearly \$6,000).

VAST – Eric requested on behalf of the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST), permission from the town to allow the VAST trail to cross town land – town garage parcel – snowmobilers have used it for many years. Board voted to approve.

Old One Ton - Eric presented ad for old one ton, Michael read it to other members - Board added right to reject any or all bids, contact Eric Buffum, and sealed bids required.

December 6th Snow Storm – Frank advised several residents expressed concern with timeliness of snow removal – Eric advised once it started it came down hard, back roads weren’t plowed until there was enough snow to plow, he pre-treated the paved roads with salt – the paved roads route takes 3 to 3 1/2 hours to do. Cathy noted that it might help to post to Front Porch Forum and *Tales of Tinnmouth* explaining how the crew manages a storm, resources, the time it takes, and asking folks to stay home if they can. The town adopted a snow and plow policy last year, needs to be posted to the town’s website.

Sherry advised that she had trouble getting up the hill near the Young farm on Route 140 that day – as well as the truck in front of her that fish tailed all the way up too, at 2:30 in the afternoon. Wallingford’s roads were fine.

She has snow tires, but she was “absolutely terrified” by the condition of the road.

Frank questioned road crew hours for that day, Eric had 10 and Ronnie had 5. Eric advised that his truck is set up for the paved roads (and salt) and Ronnie’s is set up for the back roads (and sand). Frank inquired about how the new 550 truck would be used, Eric advised for clearing intersections and smaller stuff.

Lease (Glebe) Land ~ Grant presented a report on lease land – the Vermont legislature passed a law two years ago giving towns until January 1, 2020 to retain the lease – if they take no action, the leases go away. Lease lands have a 999 year lease. Based on Grant’s report, Board voted that the Town of Tinnmouth will not hold any perpetual leases and will permit them to expire on January 1, 2020. Board thanked Grant for his efforts and research.

Special Meeting on December 17th ~ Gail advised that attorney Jim Carroll would be coming to meet with the Board regarding the Wallingford town line dispute. It will be an executive session. Grant inquired whether he would be able to attend, Board (Cathy abstained) agreed pending Mr. Carroll’s approval. Board decided Gail will be included due to knowledge as town clerk and lister.

Old Business –

*Trash on Mountain View Road – Frank noted he is still working on this.

* East Road Right of Way – no action

New Business ~

Rutland Regional Transportation Council – Grant advised he is willing to serve, Frank moved and Michael 2nded to appoint Grant Reynolds as Tinnmouth’s Representative. Frank and Michael voted in favor, Cathy abstained as Grant is her father.

Request for Removal of School Slide – Gail advised that the school had requested permission to remove the slide on the south side of the school – apparently as the insurance company advised it. After brief discussion – Board wanted a copy of the report, and asked if another would replace it as the kids use it a lot, so it was added to the January agenda. Cathy noted it came from another place and had huge concert anchors so it might be a pretty big job to remove.

Enhanced Energy Plan ~ Michael, as Planning Commission Chair, advised that the PC has worked on the EEP for over a year, voted to approve and ask the Select Board to hold a hearing and adopt as an amendment to the Town Plan. Board set hearing date of January 9th at 6:45 pm.

Transfer Station Fee ~ The Solid Waste and Recycling Committee reviewed what other towns are charging for trash disposal and have advised the Select Board to raise the fee from \$2 per bag to \$2.50 – tickets will go from \$20 to \$25. This is still under what other towns are charging, and will help cover the increase in the processing cost of recycling. Frank moved and Cathy 2nded to raise the cost

of trash disposal to \$2.50 per 30 gallon bag. They voted in favor, Michael voted no. Motion passed.

Holiday Bonus ~ After brief discussion, Frank moved and Cathy 2nded to keep it the same as last year, \$100. They voted in favor, Michael voted no. Motion passed.

Board of Abatement ~ Gail advised the Board of Abatement needs to meet regarding three properties. Board decided to add it to their 2nd meeting in January.

Wage and Salary Schedule ~ Cathy moved and Frank 2nded to approve the wage and salary schedules for FY19 and FY20. Cathy and Frank voted in favor, Michael abstained (Gail is his mother). FY21 needs further review – should there be a range of pay and for which positions?

Draft FY21 Budgets ~ Will work on at the meeting on the 17th if time allows.

Health Insurance ~ Board discussed current plan's 14% increase, what steps to take. Deadline is December 31st to switch. Frank suggested asking a financial advisor to take a look. Ask road crew to pay part of the increase? Added to agenda for the 17th.

Members Concerns ~ Public Works Facilities Proposal ~ Cathy advised that there needs to be a conversation for the Board to become unified to support the whole concept. She noted she had asked Michael at the last meeting what it would take for him to get on board and that he had not responded to her question. Michael advised that he had again voiced his objections to the wall height, building size, and total cost and had been out voted each time. No resolution was reached.

Minutes – Cathy expressed concern with 11/14/19 minutes, wanted more detail regarding the conversation about the town garage and that the Board was not unified. Board tabled until meeting on the 17th.

Select Board ~ 12/17/19 ~ Special Meeting

Present were members Michael Fallar, Frank Sears, and Cathy Reynolds, as well as James Carroll, Esq.(6:00-7:00), Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant, and at 7:00 Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Jo Reynolds, Grant Reynolds, and Doug Fontein.

Executive Session ~ The Board, based on advice of counsel, voted that the Select Board enter executive session as premature disclosure regarding possible civil litigation with the Town of Wallingford would be detrimental to the interests of the Town. They then voted to enter executive session to confer with Town counsel regarding the potential dispute of the town line with Wallingford, to include Gail Fallar-town clerk. Board exited executive session at 7:00, no action taken.

Grant advised that it could be an expensive fight and hard to determine the exact location of the town line. Board took under advisement.

Public Works Facilities Bond Proposal - Board discussed upcoming bond proposal to replace the town garage and build a salt and sand shed. Otter Creek

Engineering has estimated site work at \$179,000. NBF Architects advised the cost of a 60'x80' town garage at \$675,000. Estimated cost of the proposed 60' x 85' salt and sand shed with road crew doing site work is \$200,000. Board felt \$1 million+ for both projects is too high. There is \$370,000 currently in the Capitol Building Fund, so bonding could exceed \$650,000.

Much discussion - heated at times: about the correct size for the town garage – reduce number of bays from four (4) to three (3) or two (2), build the salt shed first – add sand shed later or not, what can a town this size afford, is there any way to reduce the cost with volunteers, hire two temporary workers to help Eric and Ronnie – one crew working on site work, the other crew working on road work, how to get Michael to support the endeavor (he noted that he has been for a smaller project from the beginning and still has concerns about how much voters can afford) so the Board presents a unified position. Reducing the size to 60' x 60' (3 bays) could reduce the cost to about \$504,000.

Cathy calculated a tax rate on \$700,000 for 30 years at 4% interest would be around 6 cents per hundred dollars of assessed value. \$60 a year on a \$100,000 house – need to get a better estimate of an interest rate.

Other sources of funds – the Town has \$108,000 for town buildings other than highway in the Capital Building Fund (some of that was for maintenance of the community center – which is now a school district responsibility) – could some of that (\$50,000?) be used for highway (with voter approval), and the Town has a housing rehabilitation fund (from a grant in the 1990's) of \$30,000 that could be repurposed to the project, that would also need voter approval.

Process was then discussed, bond vote would have hearing on town meeting day, February 29th, and be voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 3rd. Votes regarding using some of the Capital Fund and the Rehab Program would be voted from the floor at town meeting on the 29th.

Michael suggested reducing the size of the garage to two (2) bays and building a salt shed that would hold half a year's salt instead of a whole year. Old garage will be kept for cold storage, but would need to keep its heated bay if the new garage has only 2 bays.

Board decided to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, January 21st to finalize budgets and approve the warning for town meeting.

Health Insurance - After discussion regarding possible health insurance changes with advice from Steve Cable (Colonial Financial Services), Board voted to change the Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance from the Platinum Plan to the Silver CDHP Reflective Plan and to amend the Personnel Policy to reflect the change. Town will cover deductible and out of pocket costs through the HRA – premium savings will cover those costs.

Minutes of 11/14/19 were approved with a correction to remove Kim Harbaugh's name regarding the generator for the town office. Cathy withdrew her proposed changes due to the minutes already being published.

Planning Commission ~ No Meeting in December

Conservation Commission ~ 12/16/19

With thanks to Chuck Bronk, Sec.

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

New Business:

Doug provided suggested wording for a Conservation Fund Article on the Warning for Town Meeting to include the following:

- For conserving the natural and historic heritage of the Town, including land, waters, trails, infrastructure, and facilities that enhance our wildlife and natural areas for the education, recreation and enjoyment of townspeople.
- \$500 annual allotment from the town budget to establish and grow the fund (until such time and the Conservation Commission decides the fund is sufficient and no longer needs annual allotment from the town).
- Controlled by the Conservation Commission, unused funds are to roll over at the end of each fiscal year, allowing the fund to accumulate.
- Managed by the Town Treasurer as a separate fund.
- Possible additional funding may come from:
 - Grants
 - Rental of the Tinmouth Mountain Cabin
 - Individual gifts or endowments, with fundraising by the Conservation Commission

It was agreed that the Commission would report yearly to the Select Board on the activity of the fund, and that Jeff Ams will work with Gail Fallar on the wording of the Warning and attend the next Select Board meeting. The proposal was approved by the Commission, but it was understood that the Select Board may, at its discretion, require that a signed petition be provided.

Doug also provided the following draft wording for signage to restrict bicycle use of the Tinmouth Purchase Loop Trail in muddy weather:

Although motorized vehicles, including 4-wheelers are not permitted on this trail, mountain bikes are allowed. The Conservation Commission asks that cyclists self-police themselves and not use the trail when it is muddy.

This typically includes the months of April, May, June and often other times of the year during wet spells. If unsure of trail conditions, please call (802) 446-2928 for current trail conditions.

The Commission approved this wording and discussed placing such signage at the Kiosk for the Trail, at the Cabin and online with in the Cabin reservation information.

Regarding the matter of the Commission's sponsorship of Wheaton Squier's yearly Presstival (pressing apples to make cider). There was general consensus that the Commission both sponsor the event and attend to encourage the propagation and use of fruit trees through out the Town. Typically the event occurs in the 2nd week of October. The Commission suggested that it be announced in the Front Porch Forum along with the concept of an Apple Collection Day. A table at the event, staffed by the Commission, could provide pruning and variety selection advice and literature on the NRCS program. Robbie Leeds commented that he could also provide information and equipment relating to fermentation. It was agreed that this matter will be revisited at a later meeting closer to the time of the event.

Rainbow Squier was responsible for the addition of a discussion of planting fruit trees on the Town lot behind the Transfer Station, to the agenda. This might be coordinated with the Tinmouth Blooms project. It was noted that trail work for access and maintenance might require the use of a brush hog or flail mower. Jeff Ams volunteered his flail mower, and commented that we might use the posts that the Commission collected from the Creamery cribbing to create field fence enclosures around the trees. It was noted that there is nothing in the proposed Transfer Station improvements which would block the access of the public to this area. It was agreed that the Commission walk the site in the spring and at a later meeting discuss seeking the Select Board's approval for such a plan. In the meantime Rainbow will discuss this with the sponsors of the Tinmouth Blooms project.

Old Business:

Doug reported that Adam Guettel is receptive to the idea of switchbacks in the steep sections of the Ridge trail but not receptive to additional trails through his property to create a bypass.

On the Trail flagging from the cabin North, it was agreed that it should wait till spring or summer.

On the Drachman Trail brush hogging, signage and blazing will also be tabled to spring.

In Other Business there was a short discussion of Duck boxes in the Channel and their ongoing maintenance requirements. Chuck Bronk agreed to discuss this matter with Steve Hagenbush of Audubon.

Next meeting set for February 17th at 7:30 PM



~ Tinmouth Contra Dance ~
Friday, January 17, at 8:00 p.m.
Tinmouth Community Center,
573 Route 140

Dance to the splendid tunes of **Honey and the Hive** with **Luke Donforth** calling on **Friday, January 17, from 8 – 11 p.m.** at the Tinmouth

Community Center. All dances are taught, and you do not need a partner if you are willing to ask someone to dance. If you are a beginner, come right at 8:00 for a beginner's lesson. There will be live music, enthusiastic swinging and dancing, refreshments and a fun night for all. Bring your friends and family.

The dance takes place in the Tinmouth Community Center on the third Friday of the month at the Community Center, which is on Route 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. 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. Phone 802-881-6775. Find us on Facebook at Tinmouth Contra Dance. See you in Tinmouth!

No dance in February; our next dance will be March 20 with Anadama and Steve Howland calling. Mark your calendars.

~ Wallingford Recreation Department ~
Line Dancing News

The Friday Line Dancing classes have been a huge success! We've had a very good turnout, and everyone, who participated, seemed to enjoy the hour long workout.

Another five-week session is starting Friday, January 10 from 11:30 am-12:30 pm at the Wallingford Town Hall.

If you are interested in a workout that exhilarates the brain and body, do consider joining us. Newcomers are welcome at any session. Our instructor, Mary-Anne Ligouri, reviews the dance moves for each new dancer.

~ Winter Driving ~

Please SLOW down and give yourself more time to arrive at your destination. If you don't have studded snow tires, you will have more trouble staying on the road. Vermont does not have a "bare" road policy, expect some roads to be snow covered.

Please Road Snowplowing Practice on page 10.

~ Recipe Corner ~

Coconut Custard Pie

½ cup butter
1 cup flaked coconut
1 cup white sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 9" unbaked pie shell
2 eggs
1 tablespoon flaked coconut
1 cup milk



Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a large bowl beat together butter, sugar and eggs with an electric mixer on low speed. Blend in flour. Mix in ½ cup of milk at a time. Add 1 cup of coconut and vanilla and mix well.

Pour filling into unbaked pie shell. Sprinkle top with additional coconut before baking just enough to lightly cover the top.

Bake for 40-50 minutes.

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!



~ Legislative Contact Info ~

The Vermont General Assembly is back in session. If you wish to contact your State Senators or Representatives, here is the info:

You can call the Sergeant-at-Arms at 1-800-322-5616 and leave a message, or use email addresses below.

Rutland 2 District –

Rep. David Potter: dpotter@leg.state.vt.us

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

Rutland-Bennington District –

Rep. Robin Chesnut-Tangerman: rchesnut-tangerman@leg.state.vt.us

Rutland County Senators-

Sen. Brian Collamore: bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us

Sen. Cheryl Hooker: chooker@leg.state.vt.us

Sen. Jim McNeil: jmccneil@leg.state.vt.us

You can also access the Legislature's website at www.leg.state.vt.us. There you can find who is on which committee, what bills have been introduced, track each bill's progress, review committee agendas, etc. There is a wealth of information available.

Your input can be important in their decision-making. Let them know your concerns!

**~ 2019 ~ Thank you from the
Tinmouth Community Fund!**

The Tinmouth Community Fund thanks all its donors of money and volunteer time in the year 2019. We awarded many wonderful grants, helped lots of Tinmouth Scholars, sent kids to camp, and received many donations of all sizes. We received many anonymous donations, so thank you to these folks! In total we received a total of \$57,000. \$42,000 of this was anonymous donations towards our Capital Campaign goal of \$100,000 for the Scholarship fund. We received another \$10,000 early in 2020 and are past the half way point of our goal at \$52,000!

Also in 2019, we received many donations in memory of our dear friend Nancy Noble. We would like to thank and recognize the following for their donations:

Frances Bargmann, 3-J Fuels, Mark and Judi Brownell, John and Jeriann Aiken, Lydia Cannon, Lynne Bienkowski, Phillip and June Ames, Martha Smith, Jeanne Schmelzenbach, Nancy Wimble, Joe and Lacie Gorder, Bernard and Joan Ravenna, Don Schupp and Jackie Mitchell, Anne and Harry Constantinos, Ann, John and Julie Churchill, Kathleen Balbierer, Frank and Helen Chapman, Lucie and William Kane, Noble Ace in South Glens Falls, Noble Ace Watertown, Grant, Beverly and Dale Isham, Tamara Sherman, and the Tinmouth Congregational Society.

We also received scholarship and community fund donations from the following people whom we would like to thank and acknowledge:

Scott and Penny Buzby, CJ Frankiewicz, Tim and Joanne Lonergan, Newt and Ellen Meiselman, Cathy Reynolds and Doug Fontein, Stan and Rene Wilbur, Grant and Jo Reynolds, Jeff Ams, Martin and Janet Kushnick, Rose Napolitano, Bob Noble, Elizabeth and Gavin Leckie, Chuck Bronk and Tracy Byford, Robert and Cynthia Johnson, Sue and Elbert Crosby, David and Judy Fox, Jan and Ken Krantz, Dave Potter, Judith Farkas, Paul and Jayne Larson, Stan and Marisha Taylor, Ann and Jonathan Czar, Clifford and Kay Reed, Nancy and David Birdsall, Tom Sullivan, Trish and Roger Bromley, Bart and Beth Eaton, Elizabeth Zilli Cirasola, Scott and Sue Ann Lepley, Alex Dixon, Barry Cohen, Robert Hill, Phil Hayes, Eleanor and Tom Ewing, and Terry McGann

For more information about our programs and grants, visit us at <https://www.tinmouthvt.org/community-fund/> or just google, Tinmouth Community Fund and you will find us.

The Tinmouth Community Fund Board appreciates your continued support!

Cathy Reynolds, Treasurer

~ Keep Your Home Safe from Carbon Monoxide ~

By *Katie Warchut*, katie.warchut@vermont.gov, Public Health Communication Officer, VT Dept. of Health,

As you heat your home this winter, keep it safe from an invisible, deadly gas – carbon monoxide.

Many heating systems burn fuel - like natural gas, propane, oil, or wood - which produces carbon monoxide (CO). When it's cold out and homes are closed up tight, carbon monoxide can build to dangerous levels if it's not properly ventilated.

You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, so you may not know if your family is at risk. But you can take steps to prevent CO poisoning in your home:

- Install a carbon monoxide alarm. Change the batteries regularly and replace the alarm when it expires.
- Have your heating system and other fuel-burning appliances serviced every year.
- Keep the vents outside your home clear of snow and ice.
- If you lose power, only use generators outside – at least 20 feet away from your house.
- Never run a vehicle inside your garage, even if the door is open.

Symptoms of CO poisoning include headache, dizziness, weakness and upset stomach/vomiting. This can sometimes be confused with the flu.

If your CO alarm goes off, go outside immediately to get fresh air, then call 9-1-1.

For more tips and a video on carbon monoxide safety, visit: <http://www.healthvermont.gov/CO>

And check out more tips for staying safe during the winter: <http://www.healthvermont.gov/environment/climate/winter-weather>

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TOWN OF TINMOUTH ~ SNOWPLOWING PRACTICE

1. INTRODUCTION

Reasonable ice and snow control is necessary for routine travel and emergency services. The Town will provide such control in a safe and cost-effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel and environmental concerns. The Town will use town employees, equipment and/or private contractors to provide this service. The Town will endeavor to provide reasonably safe road conditions during times of inclement weather. Travelers should use safe judgment and recognize that they are traveling at their own risk in inclement weather. The Town has two full time employees to do winter maintenance on approximately 13 miles of paved road and 18.5 miles of gravel road.

2. WHEN WILL THE TOWN START SNOW OR ICE CONTROL OPERATIONS?

The Road Commissioner or Highway Department personnel will decide when to begin snow or ice control operations. The criteria for that decision are:

- A. When precipitation first starts or just prior to that, salt, sand and chemicals will be applied;
- B. Snow accumulation of 2 inches or more plowing operations will begin;
- C. Drifting of snow that causes problems for travel;
- D. Icy conditions which seriously affect travel; and
- E. Time of snow fall in relationship to heavy use of roads.

3. HOW SNOW WILL BE PLOWED

Snow will be plowed in a manner so as to minimize any traffic obstructions. The center of the roadway will be plowed first. The snow shall then be pushed from left to right. The discharge shall go onto the shoulder area of the road. In times of extreme snowfall (12 inches or more), roads will not always immediately be able to be completely cleared of snow.

4. PRIORITIES AND SCHEDULE FOR WHICH ROADS WILL BE PLOWED

The Town has classified Town roads based on the road function, traffic volume, and importance to the welfare of the community. Routes will be plowed in the most cost effective and timely manner. Those roads classified as "Major collectors" will be plowed first and to accommodate the school bus schedule as is feasible. These are high volume routes which connect major sections of the Town and provide access for emergency fire, police and medical services.

The second priority are gravel roads. The third priority are low volume or dead end roads. The fourth priority areas are Town parking lots.

5. WORK SCHEDULE FOR SNOWPLOW OPERATORS

Snowplow operators will be expected to work eight-hour shifts. In severe snow emergencies, operators sometimes shall have to work in excess of eight-hour shifts. Ideally, because of safety concerns, no operator shall work more than a sixteen-hour shift in any twenty-four hour period. If additional qualified personnel are available they will fill-in. Snow and ice operations will not normally take place between midnight and 4 AM.

6. WEATHER CONDITIONS

Snow and ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of employees or equipment, and operations are effective. Factors that may delay snow and ice control operations include: severe cold, significant winds, limited visibility and rapid accumulations of snow and/or ice.

7. USE OF SAND, SALT AND OTHER CHEMICALS

The Town will use sand, salt, and other chemicals when there are hazardous ice or slippery conditions as necessary. The Town is concerned about the effect of such chemicals on the environment and will limit its use for that reason. Even after reasonable care, snow and ice may still build up. The Town does not have a bare roads practice.

8. EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

For emergency vehicles responding to emergency situations (fire, medical, police) within the Town, necessary employees and equipment will be dispatched as soon as possible.

9. DAMAGE TO PERSONAL PROPERTY

Objects in the Town's right-of-way are placed at the owner's risk and the town assumes no responsibility for any damage to objects placed in violation of State Statute. Damage caused by snow thrown from the plow will not be covered by the Town. Damage to trees, shrubbery, other landscaping and mailboxes will not be considered for compensation

10. PLOWING OF PRIVATE PROPERTY

Unless approved by the Select Board or emergency vehicles need access, there shall be no plowing of private property or Class 4 roads with town equipment.

11. TOWING OF VEHICLES

The towing of vehicles not owned by the Town of Tinmouth is not the responsibility of the Town. Vehicles that are simply stuck or unable to travel will not be towed or "pulled out" by a town vehicle. Any vehicle that is left unattended or parked in an emergency vehicle turn around (snow plow vehicles are considered emergency vehicles) can and may be towed by a professional towing company at the owner's expense.

12. State law (23 VSA section 1126a) prohibits plowing snow or shoveling snow from a private road or drive across or onto town or state highways. Violators may be subject to fine or penalty.

Effective January 24, 2019 *Tinmouth Select Board Frank Sears Cathy Reynolds Michael Fallar*

Ice Safety Tips This Winter Season



MONTPELIER, Vt. – The recent arrival of cold temperature has formed early-season ice on Vermont ponds, lakes and rivers. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, in partnership with the National Weather Service, reminds winter enthusiasts that ice should **never** be considered safe and ice conditions vary, especially with changing weather.

“We are urging all outdoor enthusiasts – people going ice fishing, cross-country skiers, hikers, and snowmobilers -- to be extremely cautious and prepared if they are going to venture out on any ice,” said Vermont Fish & Wildlife’s Chief Game Warden Colonel Jason Batchelder. “Ice conditions can vary dramatically on different parts of a lake. Remember, even though it may look thick enough on the surface, moving water from currents, rivers and springs can cause ice to form unevenly.”

Vermont’s winters can be extreme and changeable. Always check the latest forecasts before you start your winter adventure. Prepare for extreme winter conditions like blizzard conditions due to strong winds and blowing snow as well as “dangerous wind chills that can cause frostbite in just minutes, if unprepared,” says NWS Burlington’s Warning Coordination Meteorologist – Scott Whittier.

“Once we have sustained cold weather to form good ice, activities such as ice fishing can be safe and a lot of fun,” said Batchelder, “but when we go onto the ice, we need to use good judgment and observe several safety precautions.”

- **Leave your car or truck on shore.** Every year several motor vehicles go through the ice on Vermont lakes, and people have drowned as a result.
- Leave information about your plans with someone -- where you intend to fish and when you expect to return.
- Wear a personal flotation device and don't fish alone.
- Dress for the cold weather! Wear several layers of loose-fitting, breathable layers of clothes. Also hats, gloves or mittens and warmers for hands and feet to prevent frost bite and hypothermia.
- Fish with a friend. Ice fishing is a great sport to share with family members and friends, and having a partner with you increases both the fun and the safety.
- Ice varies in thickness and condition. Always carry an ice spud or chisel to check ice as you proceed.
- Be extremely cautious crossing ice near river mouths, points of land, bridges, islands, and over reefs and springs. Current almost always causes ice to be thinner over these areas.

- BE AWARE of changeable weather and ice conditions, especially after a period of mild, above freezing temperatures. Re-check the ice status BEFORE venturing onto it.
- Avoid going onto the ice if it has melted away from the shore. This indicates melting is underway, and ice can shift position as wind direction changes.
- Waves from open water can quickly break up large areas of ice. If you can see open water in the lake and the wind picks up, get off!
- Bring your fully-charged cell phone with you.
- Carry a set of hand spikes to help you work your way out onto the surface of the ice if you go through. Holding one in each hand, you can alternately punch them into the ice and pull yourself up and out. You can make these at home, using large nails, or you can purchase them at stores that sell fishing supplies.
- Carry a safety line that can be thrown to someone who has gone through the ice.
- Heated fishing shanties must have good ventilation to prevent deadly carbon monoxide poisoning. Open a window or the door part way to allow in fresh air.

For weather information and forecasts –

National Weather Service Burlington office -

<http://www.weather.gov/btv/>

Recreational Forecast –

<http://www.weather.gov/btv/recreation>

And Bird Feeding Basics

MONTPELIER, Vt. – With winter weather now taking hold, Vermonters are readying their bird feeders. But before residents put up their avian offerings, Vermont Fish & Wildlife recommends a review of the bird feeding basics.

“Birds of all species have very interesting behaviors, shapes, and plumage, and observing them up close is a great source of enjoyment throughout the winter months,” said John Buck, Vermont Fish & Wildlife’s migratory bird biologist.

Buck recommends that people only feed birds during the winter months to avoid attracting bears. Bears are very fond of suet and bird seed, especially black oil sunflower seed. Bringing feeders in at night doesn’t work, because bears will still feed on seed that is spilled on the ground, and bears can also be active during the daylight hours. Bears that are lured by birdfeeders can become unafraid of people, which can result in the bear needing to be put down.

While the Department suggests a general feeding window of December 1-March 31, bears will continue to be present when the ground is snowless and abundant fall foods are available. Buck recommends waiting to put

feeders out until 4-6 inches of snow cover occurs to be reasonably assured bears have denned for the winter.

According to Buck, birds don't generally need food from backyard feeders to survive, but the activity is a great way for people to interact with nature and if done properly, won't harm bird populations. Many local hardware stores sell bird feeders and a variety of seed mixes that will appeal to different types of birds. For an all-purpose food, black oil sunflower seeds will attract many native bird species.

Buck also urges people to clean birdfeeders at least once a month to prevent a buildup of harmful pathogens. Bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites can be spread through dirty feeders and make birds ill, particularly vulnerable species are common redpolls, pine siskins, sparrows, finches, and cardinals.

Buck recommends using a solution of one-part bleach to nine parts hot water to kill bacteria. Hot water with unscented dish detergent also does an excellent job. Bottle brushes work well in tube feeders. He recommends thorough rinsing and drying before refilling feeders, and cleaning up seeds and droppings below the feeder. Buck also recommends checking feed after rain or wet snow to look for clumping or rotting seeds. And feeders are best placed away from larger windows that birds can sometimes crash into. With some forethought and precautions, bird feeding can be a really rewarding activity on a dark winter's day.

Vermonters who feed birds will have plenty of company. Nearly half of households in Vermont feed birds each winter, contributing an estimated \$65 million to Vermont's economy. People can help birds and other wildlife by making a tax-deductible donation to the Nongame Wildlife Fund on line 29 of the state tax returns or by purchasing an annual Vermont Habitat Stamp, available at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

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**The town receives \$1.50 for each license sold.
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~ 2020 Local Telephone Directory Update ~

This year there will be an addendum sheet for the 2018 Directory for **new** folks in town and **new** numbers.

Please check **your** data – phone number, email address if you want it included, etc. There are a number of new families in town and a few folks now have different numbers – we would like to ensure the information is as up to date as we can.

Please take a look and let us know if your information is correct and send any changes to Pat Psholka – pwps@aol.com or drop it off at the town office.

Thank you for your assistance! We would like to be able to hand these out at town meeting, so please don't delay!

Name _____

Road _____

Phone # _____

Cell # (optional) _____

Email (optional) _____

**If you need to alert the road crew about a tree across the road, or have some other road issue, please be advised the Town Garage has a telephone and answering machine. Please leave a message, as the road crew most likely will be out working on the roads.
802-446-9163**

~ *Tales of Tinmouth* ~

Tales is mailed monthly to 540 households ~ residents, property owners, past residents, and friends. It is a bit dismaying that only 80 or so of those contribute to help pay for paper, printing, labels and postage – those expenses are over \$3,000 per year. The Town allows the use of their copier, but is reimbursed for all copies made. And we thank them for use of the town office for assembly space. There are dedicated volunteers who gather each month to fold, tape and label. No one is paid.

2019 expenses were \$3,176.27 and donations/grants totaled \$2,575. Luckily the beginning balance of \$1,234 was able to cover the unmet revenue need. The ending balance of \$633 will let us publish for a couple of months.

If you are one of the **other 460** households that enjoy receiving and reading *Tales* each month, please consider sending a donation, it will be much appreciated!



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