

TALES OF TINMOUTH

April 2020

Vol. 34 Number 4

Tinmouth

Vermont

Editors' Notes:

The coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) is here. Pray for and help take care of each other. We are all in this together.

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.

Pat Psholka, Helen Mango & Gail Fallar, Editors

There is much information regarding COVID-19 contained herein. Please see page two for a letter from the Tinmouth's Emergency Management Team.

~ Coronavirus Pandemic ~

Many meetings and events have been postponed, due dates and deadlines pushed back, businesses shut down, schools closed with remote learning now the norm for teachers and students (and parents), and Governor Scott issuing a Stay at Home Order for all but essential workers, all in an attempt to lessen the impact of COVID-19.

Please do your part to stay safe and keep others safe too. *One piece of good advice given was to think of yourself having the virus and trying to not spread it to anyone else.*

Please follow the guidelines from the CDC and the Vermont Department of Health mentioned in this issue.

~ Town Office Closed to the Public~

Please see page two for details. *The door will be locked, so business will need to be done over the phone, through email or via regular mail. Your cooperation is appreciated.*

~ Dog Licenses Now Due May 1st ~

It's time to register your dog(s). All dogs, six months of age or older must be registered annually at the town clerk's office by April 1st per state statute, but the Select Board decided to waive late penalties/fees so the deadline was moved to May 1st, and may be moved again.

A current (and valid) rabies certificate is required. Fees are \$9 for neutered/spayed dogs and \$13 for those that are not. **Registration needs to be done through the mail.** Please send a check (made out to the Town of Tinmouth) and a current rabies certificate and the dog license and tag will be mailed back to you.



~ Building Committee Volunteers Needed ~

The Select Board is looking for volunteers willing to serve on a new committee to be appointed at its April 9th meeting to meet with the architect to finalize design of the town garage and salt/sand shed. Please contact the town office if you are interested in serving and/or would like more details, 446-2498.

~ Tinmouth Community Fund Scholarships 2020 ~

By Cathy Reynolds

Scholarships for continuing education are available from the Tinmouth Community Fund. We offer scholarships to colleges (two and four year, full- and part-time), certification programs, internships (support for living expenses), training programs and other education beyond high school. If you are considering a program and wonder if you might be eligible for a scholarship, please contact cathyreynolds802@gmail.com or 446-2928. Applications are available on line on the Community Fund page at the Town's website [tinmouthvt.org](http://www.tinmouthvt.org) <http://www.tinmouthvt.org/college-scholarship-application/>

We offer three scholarships on one application – The Tinmouth Community Fund Scholarship and the Susan McIntosh Lloyd Scholarship are open to all. The Pam Garceau Memorial Scholarship is a \$2,000 scholarship for seniors graduating from Mill River this year.

Applications are due May 15 by 11:59 p.m.

We encourage applicants to spend time writing the essay(s) required. The Tinmouth Writer's Group has offered to support applicants in the essay writing process. Call or email Nelson Jaquay at 446-2367 or jaquay@vermontel.net. Often a second reader can improve an essay, catch spelling and grammar errors and help you tell your story more effectively.

There will be a community awards night in June to celebrate and award scholarships to Tinmouth's students of all ages who are continuing their education.

~ Summer Camp Scholarship Program ~

The Tinmouth Community Fund's **K-12 summer camp scholarship program** is accepting applications.

The **deadline is April 15**. This is a cost-share scholarship and family ability to pay is a consideration. More information and the application can be found at the tinmouthvt.org website. You will also hit it if you search "Tinmouth Community Fund."

**Town of Tinmouth
Emergency Management Team
March 26, 2020**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tinmouth Emergency Management Team is providing this information knowing that not everyone is online or connected to Front Porch Forum. We've included it in the *Tales of Tinmouth* to save on postage and reach as many as possible.

If you are in need of assistance or have questions about which agencies can help, call 2-1-1. This number is the state wide clearing house for emergency information.

In Tinmouth we are creating a list of our own most vulnerable, especially the elderly and shut in who may not have access to a computer or the Internet. If you know someone in this situation please send their contact information to fannin@vermontel.net or call 235-2412. If you are able to volunteer your time to help please use the same contacts. That being said, it is important for all Tinmouth residents to take on as much of the care as they can for their family and neighbors. All government institutions are being stressed to the maximum already. Michael Fannin is the Emergency Management Director for Tinmouth.

Tinmouth's website – tinmouthvt.org - has a new page with COVID-19 information and updates.

Effective March 19, 2020 and until further notice, the **Tinmouth Town Office** and all Town buildings will be **CLOSED to the public**. *The door will be locked*. All non-essential meetings have been cancelled. For the foreseeable future, meetings will be held electronically with a call-in number provided in the notice and agenda. Meeting notices are posted locally (at the town office, church and community center), on the town's website, and on Front Porch Forum (FPF). If you have not yet joined FPF, now is a great time. *(Please see page 3 for how to do that.)*

The Town Clerk will be at the office to assist you by phone, mail, fax, and email on an as needed basis. There is an answering machine, please leave a message. Telephone 802-446-2498 or send an email to tinmouthtown@vermontel.net.

- If you need a copy of your tax bill, please email or call and it will be emailed, faxed, or sent it to you or your accountant.
- If you need a dump card, please call to make an arrangement – it can be left in an envelope outside the town office – or it can also be done through the mail, cost is \$25, checks payable to the Town of Tinmouth.
- If you need to license your dog(s), you can send the fee (\$9 for spayed/neutered, \$13 if not) check made payable to the Town of Tinmouth and current rabies certificate, or wait a month as the Select Board has waived late fees/penalties until May 1st.
- Anyone having symptoms of COVID-19 (i.e.. fever, cough, difficulty breathing) or has been exposed to someone exhibiting symptoms should stay home.

The **Transfer Station** will remain open its regular hours (Saturday 8-12 and Wednesday 4-7). Current practice will be that the attendant will record your name and number of punches you owe, and punch your card at a future date. This may change if a safe way to punch the cards and stay 6 feet away is found.

Thank you for understanding that these are unusual times, requiring precautions for public safety and health. Many Tinmouth community members are in the high-risk group, and we believe taking these precautions will help keep ourselves and our community members healthy. Updates will be posted at tinmouthvt.org, on Front Porch Forum, in *Tales of Tinmouth*, and on the door of the town office.

PLEASE continue to follow the recommended guidelines of the CDC and the VT Department of Health:

- * wash your hands often;
- * practice “social distancing” – this means stay six feet away;
- * avoid large gatherings;
- * and if feeling unwell with symptoms of the virus, stay home and call your primary care physician.

YOUR continued good health is the primary concern. Keep healthy, follow the guidelines, and stay positive.

Please go to healthvermont.gov/covid19 for the most up-to-date state information and guidance about COVID-19, including information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). You may call the VT Department of Health at 802.863-7240, or call community services information at 2-1-1.



April 2020 Calendar of Events

All non-essential meetings have been postponed until further notice.

Select Board	Thursday	9 th	7:00	Teleconference
Camp Scholarship Applications Due	Wednesday	15 th		11:59 PM
Tales of Tinmouth Deadline	Monday	20 th		Don't Miss It!

May 2020 Calendar of Events ~ These may also be postponed.

Dog Licenses Due	Thursday	1 st	4:00	Town Office
Green Up	Saturday	2 nd		On your own, see article on page 4.
Fire Dept.	Thursday	7 th	7:00	Fire House
Mother's Day	Sunday	10 th		Call your Mom!!
Select Board	Thursday	14 th	7:00	Town Office/Teleconference
Scholarship Applications Due	Friday	15 th		11:59 pm
Tales of Tinmouth Deadline	Wednesday	20 th		Don't Miss It!
Planning Commission	Thursday	21 st	7:00	Town Office/Teleconference

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

~ Sunday Church Service ~ Library Hours ~ Volleyball ~ Pickleball ~ Knit, Craft or Chat ~ Bone Builders ~
Are All Suspended Until Further Notice Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and
Governor Scott's Order for everyone to Stay Home.

April Contra Dance is Cancelled

The **Old Firehouse Concerts for April 3 and 24 have been cancelled.** *Gypsy Reel* has been rescheduled to June 19; *Shady Rill* (Patti Casey and Tom MacKenzie) to November 7. The Old Firehouse Crew hopes to open the Spring series with *Bill Staines* on May 8. Whether that will happen will depend on events. They hope to have an announcement by the end of April.

The **Tinmouth Community Church is now online** at TinmouthChurch.org. Services can be found there. Click on "This Week's Service" in the gray box at the upper right corner.

Of course, there will be **no in-person services** at the church until further notice. Pastor John remains available at (802)282-7532 and email at hzfam@hotmail.com.

~ Nature Notes ~

Snow drops peeped through just after town meeting. They got a thorough chilling in the ensuing days. Woodchucks were brave enough to venture about. The first day of Spring (11:53 PM on the 18th) was followed by a wonderful sunny day with the temperatures nearly reaching 70 degrees!! BBQ grills were fired up for the first picnic of the season. Daffodils poked up leaves, found everything quite nice and proceeded to send up blossoms nearly ready to pop.

And then on the 23rd, over 8 inches of snow fell, very quickly at that. Grandchildren made a five foot tall snowman – that soon started to lean – though it did manage to last through several warm sunny days.

Another snowman was built on a chair on the front porch (remember the BBQ?) and there was so much water in the snow, that it quickly developed a "bladder problem" according to the six year old grandchild.

Fishworms were spotted around the 16th, and wood frogs began their courting on March 27th!

~ Front Porch Forum ~

Connect with your Tinmouth Neighbors

Have you checked out Front Porch Forum yet? To sign up, go to <http://FrontPorchForum.com>.

200+ households have signed to date! Good way to keep track of events dealing with the coronavirus, discuss community issues, sell a canoe, give away a kitten, etc..

If you are a second home owner you can use your 911 address.

~ 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 contact the Mill River UHS guidance counselor for details and an application.

~ Community News ~

Get Well Wishes are sent to **Kevin Ruane**.



To the Tinmouth Community,

So much has changed in the past few weeks. On March 26th, Governor Scott announced that school buildings would be closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. It came as no surprise.

Teachers are working tirelessly to set up online access and materials for children. The at home schedule includes an hour of Math (including math facts practice) and an hour of literacy (including reading silently or with a partner). Additional activities are included to get kiddos outside playing and working on hands-on projects.

The PreK through 3rd graders are using an online program called *See-Saw* to send and receive assignments from teachers. This is a program that was set up in many classrooms back in September. It is very child-friendly. Teachers upload videos and assignments. Parents can access the *See-Saw* program on their phones or other electronic device.

Grades 4 through 6 are sharing work through the *Google Classroom* program. This is a program the students have used throughout the school year and are familiar with.

We no longer provide paper copies of work unless it is absolutely necessary. We have recognized that the current situation is unprecedented. Learning remotely through an online platform is a great way for parents to model habits of work for children, particularly, perseverance. Teachers have made themselves available through email and text to help parents navigate the online learning systems. We recognize that if you don't regularly work online it can be frustrating and challenging. We are encouraging parents to email or text if they need support. These programs allow teachers to provide immediate feedback to students on their work.

Weekly communication between teachers and parents has been established. The amount of work, the difficulty of work, the time it is taking students to complete and how independently they are able to complete work - this is some of the essential feedback parents are communicating to teachers.

Round-up is continuing in spite of the need to keep social distancing! Betti Jaquay video recorded Nelson Jaquay and we have been forwarding this to students every Friday. We even put it on the school webpage!

In a preceding paragraph, I wrote that these are unprecedented times. The stress level caused by uncertainties may have an unpredictable impact on children and adults. It's not uncommon for any of us to experience stages of grief and increased anxiety.

Please contact us via email if you know of anyone in the community needing support and we will provide, or put you in touch with, the appropriate resources.

Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker

Principal, Tinmouth Mountain School

mfitzgerald-riker@millriverschools.org

TINMOUTH GREEN UP – 2020

By Doug Fontein



Green Up Day is **Saturday, May 2**. The Green Up Committee and the Conservation Commission would like to change Tinmouth Green Up this year to minimize risk from COVID-19. To avoid gathering in groups and to maintain social distancing, we'll do individual Green Up at times that are convenient for you. Here's how it works:

Anytime during the 2 week window from Saturday, April 25 to Saturday, May 9, you can collect bags and mark the section of road you want to clean up on a map. The bags and map and markers will be located under the porch roof of the Old Creamery. PLEASE wear latex gloves even for getting your bags and marking the map and throughout your greening up along the road. Covid-19 can survive 24 HRS. on surfaces and on litter. Gloves will be available at the Old Creamery porch if you don't have any. PLEASE one pair per Green Up person.

People should wear work clothes, don't touch any needles or broken glass, and take tick precautions. Go to <https://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/tickborne-diseases> for more information.

Apologies for not having our usual fun-filled Green Up celebration and ice cream, but we want everyone to stay safe and healthy in the presence of Covid-19.

Questions can be addressed to Green Up Committee members:

Doug Fontein 446-2928

Nelson Jaquay 446-2367

Ed Hasenohr 446-2676



TINMOUTH
CHURCH

~ **Tinmouth Community Church** ~

March 23, 2020

Time-out. That's what sports teams call when they need to reconsider their approach to the game.

Time-out. That's what parents give their children when they need to think about their misbehavior.

Time-out. That's what the Coronavirus is giving us. And the same reasons apply - to reconsider our approach to life, to get honest about our misbehaviors and to make the changes in ourselves and in our societies that promote health and wholeness, compassion and mercy, peace and justice, for all.

Considering how to use this time off many of us now have is not meant to downplay or spiritualize the serious health and economic crisis before us, but to honor the fact that we are also spiritual beings, who are impelled to find meaning, purpose and hope in our lives, especially when they are threatened. Having this time-out is meant to save lives. It could also be life-saving.

We can no longer act as if truth and integrity don't matter. We can no longer act as if other people and nations are less important or inferior to us, or as if extreme wealth and unbridled pleasure are the point of life. We can no longer act as if we don't need the rest of the human community or have no responsibility regarding them. And we must stop appeasing leadership that does so.

We would not have taken this time-out voluntarily. Without a serious crisis, we would likely not change ways of relating that are indifferent to others, prejudicial or harmful. Nor would we likely change ways of doing politics and business that are divisive, discriminatory or unjust. To people who walk in darkness or to an unrepentant people, crisis is inevitable as an impetus to change.

There is a divine purpose at work through crises as we have faith and act responsibly – to enlighten us, to free us, to mature us, to redeem us. As such, this crisis is an opportunity to become our better selves, a better nation, a better world. But it is not a guarantee. Fear could get the best of us, panic set in, violence and chaos get unleashed. While we try to prevent further suffering, care for the sick and bury the dead, now is the time to examine ourselves, our values and our way of life, and make the changes that put us back on the track of compassionate living. And

there is no substitute for putting our faith in God, who pervades this whole crisis and is continuously working to transform us through its uncertainty, fear, suffering and death. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble" (Psalm46). Indeed.

The Coronavirus pandemic has resurfaced an essential truth. We are one human family, interconnected and interdependent. No longer can we live as if ourselves, our clan, our party or our nation is the only one that matters. The virus makes no such distinctions. Life will not support such narrow-mindedness and lack of heart for others.

Virus infects us, body, mind and spirit. This pandemic is an opportunity to get our moral house in order and recommit ourselves to the good of one another as we trust God to do what we cannot. The crises will keep coming until we do. Already we are seeing signs of healing and rebirth. The hearts of people around the world are opening, encouraging one another in practical, helpful, creative and uplifting ways. Nations are mobilizing, even sharing their resources. The Coronavirus may yet fulfill a spiritual purpose before time runs out to save our humanity, save lives and save our planet.

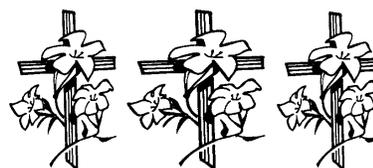
In faith, hope and love,
Pastor John

Rev. John Hardman-Zimmerman
(802) 282-7532 (cell, preferred)
(802) 884-8249 (parsonage)
hzfam@hotmail.com

~ **Tinmouth Community Church Website** ~

The Tinmouth Community Church is now online at TinmouthChurch.org. Services can be found there. Click on "This Week's Service" in the gray box at the upper right corner.

Of course, there will be **no in-person services** at the church until further notice. Pastor John remains available at (802)282-7532 and email at hzfam@hotmail.com.



Hello gardeners and volunteers and Tinmouth Scholarship supporters:



The famous **Tinmouth Plant Sale** may not happen on its traditional day this year – “We are watching the situation and will post updates on Front Porch Forum as we get closer.”

Vermont Department of Taxes Issues 2020 Tax Season Guidance in Response to COVID-19 Emergency

The Vermont Department of Taxes continues to carefully monitor the evolving situation related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The Department is working closely with the office of Governor Phil Scott and the Vermont legislature, following changes at the federal level, and adhering to guidance from the Vermont Department Health. Please see the Department's information on relief for Vermont taxpayers at tax.vermont.gov/coronavirus. You should check this link periodically as the guidance may change. You may also follow the Vermont Department of Taxes on Facebook and Twitter.

April 15th due dates have been extended to July 15th. Please see the link for details. Links should work from the *Tales* posted on the town website. Or you can type them into your browser.

~ Homestead Declaration ~

This a reminder that you need to file an **annual Homestead Declaration** with the Vermont Department of Taxes, form HS-122. You must file this to qualify for the homestead education tax rate and to request a property tax adjustment if you are eligible. You must also file form HI-144 (household income), **due July 15th**. This is required even if you do not have to file or pay state income taxes.

~ Vermont Dept. of Fish and Wildlife News ~

Montpelier - While our (Fish and Wildlife) events are paused, we can and should continue to get outside and enjoy our beloved natural resources. Below are some of our recommendations.

Remember to take all safety precautions including social distancing and hand washing. Read more on Novel Coronavirus from the Vermont Department of Health.

Spring bird migration is well underway and Wildlife Management Areas(WMAs) are open

In fact, thousands of waterfowl have flown through the Champlain Valley this week and congregated at Dead Creek WMA, Crown Point bridge, and Lemon Fair WMA. Among them were tundra swans, pintails, widgeons, black ducks, mallards, Canada geese, common mergansers, green-winged teal, buffleheads, goldeneyes, and blue-winged teal.

Pack your binoculars and explore a WMA near you. Here are our Top 10 Wildlife Management Areas for Birding.

Fishing's Never Far

It's fun to fish in the early spring, and youth under 15 years old can go without a license! Fishing offers time in nature, entertainment, and challenges. Learn more about fishing in Vermont here and get started with the help of this family fishing planner. Post pictures of your adventure, your catch, and the food you made with it!

Learn Something New

Start your Hunter Education journey online - you'll be ready when in-person classes start again
Learn about how Vermont's new baitfish regulations affect you Listen to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife podcast
Read the 2020-2030 Big Game Management Plan

Here Are 4 More Family Activity Ideas

- 1) Spring is a great time to look for reptiles and amphibians as they emerge from winter hibernation. As you walk through the woods, look for pools of water, or listen for the calls of frogs as they wake up for the season. Make your own origami frog here.
- 2) **Looks for the sights and sounds of eastern wild turkeys. Spring is a great time to hear the loud gobble of the male, tom turkey. Find out more about this amazing animal and how to search its signs here.**
- 3) What a great time for a bird hike! See the Bird Behavior Scavenger Hunt to help guide you on your adventures (visit one of the state's WMAs linked above).
- 4) Explore a wetland in spring, when they are teeming with life. Look for different plants and animals that are waking up! Use the Puddle Wonders data sheet or Wildlife Water Safari worksheets to help guide you on your journey!

We've created a web page with other ideas for some fresh air and a little normalcy while staying safe and taking precautions.

We'll also post more suggestions and opportunities to get some fresh air and exercise on state and public lands via Fish and Wildlife facebook and twitter accounts.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife www.vtfishandwildlikfe.com
802.828.1000

~ Meeting Highlights~

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

Select Board ~ 3/19/20

Virtual Meeting Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Present at town office were members Michael Fallar and Frank Sears, as well as Hollis Squier and Gail Fallar

Present via teleconference: Cathy Reynolds-Select Board Member, Michael Fannin-Emergency Management Director (EMD), Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Sherry Johnson and Kim Harbaugh, Grant Reynolds and Rick Fallar.

First order of business was to re-organize for 2020. Cathy Reynolds nominated Frank Sears to be Chair, he accepted; Michael Fallar nominated himself, Frank Sears 2nded. Cathy Reynolds and Frank Sears voted for Frank Sears, Michael Fallar voted for himself. Frank Sears was duly elected, assumed the Chair and continued the re-organization.

Set Regular Monthly Meetings Day and Time – 2nd Thursday at 7:00 and 4th Tuesday

Designated Signer for Bills and Orders - Board voted to authorize Frank Sears as Chair to sign orders. Gail Fallar reminded the Board that the other members need to review and approve orders as well.

Newspaper of Record – Rutland Herald

Adopt Robert's Rules for Small Boards – Board voted to adopt.

Appoint Overweight Truck Permit Signer – Board voted to authorize the Board Chair sign.

Appoint Member to Community Center Board – Frank Sears nominated Cathy Reynolds, she 2nded, Frank Sears and Cathy Reynolds voted for her, Michael Fallar voted no.

Agenda ~ Board reviewed agenda, Gail Fallar asked to add a request regarding waiving late fees/penalty for dog licenses due to the coronavirus pandemic. Board voted immediately to waive late fees/penalty for dog licenses until May 1st. Board moved Michael Fannin to the top of the agenda.

COVID-19 Emergency ~ Michael Fannin, EMD, advised he has posted helpful and informative links to Front Porch Forum and asked Nancy Birdsall to add a page to the Tinmouth town website that would also link to the Middletown Springs town website that was very helpful (with Middletown's permission). He expressed concern for the transfer station, how to keep the attendants and the public safe – keep the six foot separation distance. After brief discussion, Board asked Michael Fannin to contact the transfer station manager, Chris Martone, to address the issue.

Gail Fallar advised that Fire Chief Marshall Squier had requested the Local Emergency Management Team convene to work on the situation created by the

coronavirus pandemic. Michael Fannin advised he would do that in the very near future.

Board voted to close all town buildings to the public until further notice. This includes the town office, library, old fire house, and town garage. Gail Fallar advised that as Town Clerk/Treasurer, she would work behind closed/locked doors to answer the phone, mail, and emails to help citizens, without personal contact.

Michael Fannin noted he is willing to organize a clearing house and collect food. Cathy Reynolds advised that the Rutland County Mutual Aide group is trying to be the center of that – organizing it by town. Michael Fannin will look into it.

Financial Reports ~ Skipped due to full agenda

Highway ~

Eric Buffum (E.B.) reported there is lots of mud, grader is down but has a plan to fix it. He is working on estimates for the culvert replacement on Potter's Brook on North End Road, may cost \$40,000. He noted that he has not had a chance to speak with the property owner on North East Road regarding leaving lots of snow in the road as he plows across it.

Hollis Squier noted he preferred to speak to Eric Buffum in person rather than over the phone. Board advised that this would not be possible to do this in a meeting for a while given the pandemic situation at hand. So Hollis continued, noting that he is on Eric's side and wants to see him succeed. Hollis had several questions of his own and from others regarding highway practices. *Pre-treating paved roads with salt many (15 in one case) hours in advance of a storm, doesn't it bounce off, get blown off, etc?* Eric Buffum responded that timing of the pre-treatment does not seem to make a difference with its performance, but it really helps with removing the snow. *Size of the new snow plow - it seems to hang over into the middle of the road?* E.B. noted the blade is the same size, hangs on the frame a bit differently. *Increase in mud – material being pulled from the sides of the road is making mud. Should be adding gravel when grading.* E.B. advised he was not pulling material from the edge of the road. *Driving the town truck to Wallingford for breakfast.* E.B. When out checking the roads, was just scooting down for a breakfast sandwich. *Lack of signs near mud holes – liability for that, lack of gravel being placed in mud holes, need for fire trucks to be able to traverse roads.* Frank Sears advised that was enough, that he will take these concerns under advisement and talk with the road commissioner.

Building Committee ~ Board discussed creating a building committee to meet with the architect to determine final size and specs for the new town garage and work on the salt/sand shed. Architect wants to meet during regular working hours. All members of the Board noted they wanted to be on the committee. Board voted to establish a Building Committee to meet with the architect

to finalize design of the town garage and salt/sand shed. Members discussed make-up of the committee - three board members, road commissioner, former road commissioner, and how about a builder or other interested community members? Board will advertise on FPF and in *Tales*, and finalize at April meeting.

Board agreed to work on the salt/sand shed costs first and finalize them in order to finalize the budget for the town garage. Board anticipates committee will meet weekly during business hours for planning purposes.

Draft RFP for Audit ~ The Bond Bank requires an outside audit of town finances as part of the application to borrow the money authorized at town meeting. Board reviewed draft, needs a bit more work. Can't send out before 30 day waiting time for possible request for a reconsideration of the town meeting bond vote, will finalize at the April meeting.

Old Business ~

East Road Right of Way – no progress.

Trash on Mountain View – Frank will contact Rutland County Sheriff Dept for enforcement.

FY21 Wage and Salary Schedule – Postponed

Personnel Review ~ Meeting on 2/18/20 was postponed due to weather conditions. After brief discussion, Board voted to table it for 60 days.

New Business ~

Re-determination of CLA ~ Board voted to ratify Cathy Reynolds, as Board Chair, signing agreement accepting the State's re-determination of the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA). This is the result of the appeal of the CLA that was initially set by the state at 93.08. The re-determination was set 98.14. Last year the CLA was 99.15. The CLA affects education tax rates – the proposed drop from 99 to 93 would have resulted in an automatic 6% increase in education taxes.

RFP for Town Office Roof Over Library ~ Board reviewed draft, noting it needed to be beefed up. Michael Fallar volunteered to work on it.

Hazard Mitigation Grant RFP ~ Board voted to authorize Gail Fallar to prepare and send pending review by the Board.

Annual Appointments ~ Please see * below as well as here. Frank Sears moved and Cathy Reynolds 2nded to appoint Gail Fallar as Zoning Administrator, they voted yes, Michael Fallar abstained. Board voted to disband the Resilient Roads Committee. Board discussed whether to appoint a second constable. In 2019 voters authorized the Select Board to appoint, rather than electing constables. 1st Constable Paul Morris' term will end March of 2021. 2nd Constable term expired 3/3/20. No action taken at this time. Board took under advisement letter from Jeff Warfle regarding constable duties.

Wallingford Town Line Update ~ Gail Fallar advised the attorneys still are working on a resolution.

Wood Stove at the Town Office ~ Hollis Squier reminded the Board that the wood stove currently residing in the town office belongs to him, and is still on loan to the town (from about 1995).

Members Concerns ~ Michael Fallar expressed concern with other board members spreading rumors about him behind his back, asked that they speak directly to him, face to face.

Virtual Meetings ~ As there will likely be several more virtual meetings, it was evident that a protocol is needed to allow everyone to speak in an orderly manner; better equipment is needed; as well as an arrangement with a company that provides this service.

* **Annual Appointment of Officers** – one year terms unless otherwise noted in ().

Board of Adjustment ~ (2023) Sherry Johnson, Stan Wilbur

Planning Commission ~ (2023) Michael Fallar, Larry Carabeau, Vito Macaluso

911 Coordinator ~ Gail Fallar

Emergency Management Director ~ Michael Fannin

Community Center Board ~ Cathy Reynolds

Health Officer ~ Frank Sears

Rutland Regional Planning Commission ~ Robert Lloyd, Michael Fallar, Alternate

RRPC Regional Transportation Council ~ Grant Reynolds, Michael Fannin, Alternate

Solid Waste Alliance Communities ~ Chris Martone, Wheaton Squier, Alternate

Conservation Commission ~ (2024) Jeff Ams, Nelson Jaquay

Safety & Wellness Committee ~ Ronnie Crossman, Ray Pratt, Chris Martone, Frank Sears, Gail Fallar

Tinmouth Website Committee ~ Nancy Birdsall, Pat Psholka, Cathy Reynolds, Sherry Johnson, Todd Dennis

Solid Waste & Recycling Committee ~ Jonathan Czar, Helen Mango, Wheaton Squier, Gail Fallar

Old Creamery Committee ~ Grant Reynolds, Michael Fallar, Doug Fontein, Vito Macaluso, Stan Wilbur

Tree Warden ~ David Birdsall, Wheaton Squier, Deputy

Green-Up Day Committee ~ Doug Fontein, Nelson Jaquay, Ed Hasenohr

Energy Committee ~ Ray Pratt, Cathy Reynolds, Todd Dennis

Housing Rehab Loan Committee ~ Select Board

Animal Control Officers ~ David Birdsall, Constable

Town Huggers ~ Hollis Squier and Patti (Cow Patti)

Macaluso

Pound Keeper ~ Glenn D. Merrill

Fence Viewers ~ Caleb Scott, Ralph Lewis, Glenn D. Merrill, Grant Reynolds, Michael Fallar

Weighers of Coal ~ Michael Fannin, Cathy Reynolds

Inspectors of Lumber & Shingles ~ Doug Fontein, and Michael Fallar

Planning Commission ~ 3/12/20

Present were members Michael Fallar, Vito Macaluso, Pat Psholka, Kim Harbaugh, Rainbow Squier, Larry Carabeau, Andy Gilmore, and Grant Reynolds via telephone, as well as Frank Sears and Gail Fallar.

First order of business was to re-organize for 2020. Michael inquired if anyone else was willing to serve as Chair, no takers. Members duly elected: Michael Fallar – Chair, Bob Lloyd – Vice Chair and Gail Fallar – Secretary.

Village Center Designation (VCD) – Grant and Pat reviewed the checklist to apply, what has been done to date, what remains to be done. Members discussed the draft map, what to include and exclude – Grant noted the State would prefer it to be smaller and include all sidewalks (ha-ha, there are none in Tinmouth). Bob Lloyd’s mapping skills are needed, Gail will check with the RRPC to see what guidance and support they will provide. Purpose of the application for Tinmouth will be to have a better chance of obtaining grant funding in the future. When the state reviews an application, they award points for having a Village Center Designation.

Frank advised he was present as a Select Board member to better understand the proposed VCD application.

Community Center Board ~ 3/16/20 Special Meeting

Present were TCC members Amy Martone - via telephone, and Ann Czar, as well as Rainbow Squier – CC Building Manager, Hollis Squier – volley ball group, Martha Stanley and Tracy Byford – pickleball league, and Gail Fallar.

The meeting was called to discuss use of the community center given the recent pandemic coronavirus outbreak. The School District canceled all outside use of school buildings until further notice. And since that first decision, all classes have been canceled until April 6th as well.

Amy advised all uses should be cancelled for two weeks and re-evaluate at that point. It is a very serious issue and the Board needs to be responsible to protect members of the community.

Ann agreed with Amy, noting that the pandemic is at a critical mass now, reports advising the virus can be transmitted 4 days before symptoms appear.

Tracy expressed hope that pickleball could continue given that it was a closed small group and the students would not be in the building.

Board voted to cancel all TCC activities for two weeks (including use of the Old Fire House). Board agreed to meet again in two weeks to re-evaluate – set meeting for 3/31/20 at 5:30. (*Editor’s Note-That meeting cancelled due to Governor Scott’s Order to Stay at Home. TCC use is cancelled until further notice.*)

Rainbow advised there were no community center bookings in April or May. Board advised her to tell

anyone inquiring that it would not be available until at least June. Martha noted she was disappointed, but agreed it was the right decision.

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

Just an annual reminder that a number of Tinmouth folks have unclaimed property being held at the State Treasurer’s office. There is a process to get it back. Telephone, snail mail and Internet are ways to access and claim it. Visit www.Vermont.gov Treasurer’s office for more information.

Nearly 40 Tinmouth folks are named, some are now deceased, some have moved, but some of you are still here – values are less than \$10 to more than \$200. Could be a forgotten bank account, uncashed check, security deposit refund, etc. These items have to be turned over to the state treasurer by banks, insurance companies, and others.

~ United States Census 2020 ~

At least three pieces of mail have arrived urging residents to go online and complete the census forms. If you do not do it online, in the near future they will be mailing you a paper form to return, if you do not do that, they will send someone to knock on your door to see if you need assistance. You are required to complete the form and it is important that everyone be counted.

The 2020 census is easy. The 6 questions are simple.

During the 2020 census, the Census Bureau will never ask you for - your social security number, money or donations, anything on behalf of a political party, your bank or credit card numbers.

~ DO NOT FLUSH WIPES!! ~

There are reports from all over Vermont about municipal sewer systems getting clogged due to people flushing disinfectant wipes (and paper towels) down the toilet.

Please DO NOT FLUSH WIPES, even if the package says “flushable.” Throw them into your trash can. Wastewater system staff have to clean them out of pumps, pipes, and screens BY HAND, increasing their risk of exposure to COVID-19, which may survive in feces for two to 14 days.

The same is true of private septic systems. Reports from around Vermont indicate that more septic tanks are being pumped out; this waste is then taken to municipal sewer plants – which are facing a big increase in septage and can’t handle any more!

Please flush **only** pee, poo, and toilet paper, for their own and the community’s health.

For more about drinking water safety and wastewater impacts, go to the Centers for Disease Control page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/water.html> .



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The town receives \$1.50 for each
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**Licenses expired on December
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Carol Bohlin, 446-2119

~ Helpful Items for Loan ~

Someone getting a new hip or knee? Or just needs some help getting around? The Town Office has walkers, crutches, a potty seat, a potty chair (commode), and a wheel chair to loan.

Please call the town office at 446-2498 to make arrangements.

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For Sale: Small camping lot on Tinmouth Pond Road, 100' x 50' near scenic Tinmouth Pond. Majestic mountain views, motivated seller.
Contact Terry McGann at 802-775-5483

*Please Recycle or Pass
Along Tales!!*

March came in like a lamb, will it go out like a lion? **Nope, it didn't!!**



Need help finding help?

Reaching out to Vermont 2-1-1 is your first step.

Are you facing difficult times and don't know where to turn?

Vermont 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember three-digit phone number that connects you with the services that can help.

Looking for help with everyday needs?

At 2-1-1, you will speak to someone who will provide the human touch, help to problem solve, and link callers throughout Vermont with government programs, community-based organizations, support groups, and other local resources.

WHEN should you contact 2-1-1?

Call 2-1-1: 24 hours/7 days

(Or 1-866-532-4636 toll-free in Vermont, or 1-802-532-4636 from outside Vermont)

OR

Text your zip code to 888211: Monday-Friday: 8am-8pm

Standard message & data rates apply. Text STOP to opt-out. For end user privacy and terms and conditions of texting with 888211, go to: <http://www.preventspamtext.com/stop/>

Also visit: www.vermont211.org

In Vermont, call 9-1-1 to save a life, stop a crime or report a fire;

Contact 2-1-1 for community information and referral.



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**Chipman Lodge #52 F&AM
Wallingford, Vermont
Scholarship Application
for Non-traditional/Alternative Education Study from May 2020 to May 2021**

Chipman Lodge is pleased to offer the “Chipman Masonic Scholarship” for educational endeavors. The Wallingford Masons have always been very supportive of education. Nathaniel Chipman, after whom the Wallingford Lodge is named, was a US Senator and Chief Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court in the early nineteenth century. We offer this scholarship to residents of Wallingford, Tinmouth, Clarendon and Shrewsbury. The scholarship is intended to help with direct educational expenses up to \$500 for an upcoming educational program. Payment will be made directly to the awardee at the address below upon proof (transcript, diploma, certificate) of successful completion of the educational endeavor.

Applicant:

Name: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Address: _____

Street Town State Zip

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Name of educational organization: _____

Date of program: _____

Total cost of program: _____

Description of program: _____

Written Statement: *(Please attach separate sheet.)*

In 100-200 words write an essay that includes your educational goals.

Signature of Applicant

Submit this application to Jay White, 514 Clarendon Rd Wallingford, VT 05773 or jwhite@nbfarchitects.com on or before: **May 1, 2020.** If you are a MRUHS student, please obtain a different application from MRUHS Guidance office.

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