

# TALES OF TINMOUTH

May 2020  
Vol. 34 Number 5

Tinmouth  
Vermont

## Editors' Notes:

*Please pray for and help take care of each other as we struggle through this pandemic. We are all in this together. If you need help, please ask.*

The deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> 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*

## ~ Coronavirus Pandemic Update ~

Thanks in good part by the general public adhering to the Governor's Stay at Home Order, for all but essential workers (and a HUGE Thank You to all of them), the potential impact of COVID-19 seems to have lessened. The Governor is slowly allowing smaller businesses to open back up.

Please continue to 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.

## And from Michael Fannin, Tinmouth's EMD:

Once again I'd like to ask my fellow Tinmouth residents to contact me if they have a special need connected to the current emergency situation. If you have issues with food supply we have a food shelf and will ramp up capacity as needed. There are other food sources being developed regionally and we will keep information concerning that on the town web site and on Front Porch Forum. Contact me if you do not have access to the mentioned contacts.

2-1-1 is the state informational hot line where all things are connected. Should you have an unusual need or question it is the place to go (with your telephone). They are connected to all of the human service agencies.

Also if you have the time to volunteer to help with individual care for those who may be shut in contact me as well. My phone number is 235 2412, and my web address is [fannin@vermontel.net](mailto:fannin@vermontel.net).

If you want to donate money or food to the food shelf contact the Town Clerk's office.

**Michael Fannin**

Tinmouth Emergency Management Director

## ~ Town Office Still Closed to the Public~ (Slightly Modified)

*The door will continue to be locked, but if necessary, appointments can/will be made to insure everyone has a mask, gloves and that social distancing is maintained. Anyone having symptoms of COVID-19 (i.e.. fever, cough, difficulty breathing) or has been exposed to someone exhibiting symptoms, please stay home.*

If your business (dog license, dump ticket, building permit, copy of tax bill, etc.) can be done over the phone, through email or via regular mail, please continue with that for another month. Your cooperation is appreciated.



## ~ Dog Licenses Now Due June 1<sup>st</sup> ~

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) with a current rabies certificate and the dog license and tag will be mailed back to you.

## ~ 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 15<sup>th</sup>**. This is required even if you do not have to file or pay state income taxes.

Please do this as soon as you can to help reduce tax bill adjustments. Thank you!!

## ~ 2020 Grand List Work ~

Due to the pandemic, deadlines for lodging the Grand List and other Listers' work have been extended. Listers are being discouraged from doing site visits, so they will be sending letters asking for information and photos of work you may have done – based on zoning permits or unfinished projects from past years.

Your cooperation is much appreciated. If everything goes well, any catch-up will be done for next year.

## ~ Quick Disinfectant ~

Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:

- 5 tablespoons (1/3<sup>rd</sup> cup) bleach per gallon of water OR

- 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water

~ May 2020 Calendar of Events ~

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

<b>Scholarship Applications Due</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>		<b>11:59 pm</b>
<b>Fire Dept.</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:30</b>	<b>Fire House</b>
<b>Mother's Day</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Call your Mom!!</b>
<b>Select Board</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Town Office/Teleconference</b>
<b>Dog Licenses Due</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Town Office</b>
<b>Tales of Tinmouth Deadline</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Don't Miss It!</b>
<b>Select Board</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Town Office/Teleconference</b>
<b>Green Up</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>On your own, see article on page 1</b>	
<b>Planning Commission</b>	<b>No meeting in May</b>			
<b>Plant Sale</b>	<b>Please see article on page 3 for details for this annual event.</b>			

~ June 2020 Calendar of Events ~

<b>Select Board</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Teleconference</b>
<b>Tales of Tinmouth Deadline</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Don't Miss It!</b>
<b>Select Board</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Teleconference</b>

*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.

**May Contra Dance is Cancelled**

**Old Firehouse Concerts have been cancelled until further notice.**

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

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](mailto:hzfam@hotmail.com).



~ **Library News** ~  
*By Ruth Drachman*

The Library is still closed but we hope it will be open soon, when it is safe to do so.

Meanwhile *Audible* is offering free audio books for kids and teens while schools are closed. Go to the amazon website.

Otherwise know that although these are tough times, we will get through them together.

~ **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.

~ **Household Hazardous Waste Day** ~  
**RE-SCHEDULED**

Due to Covid-19, the Rutland County Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC) - the towns of Benson, Chittenden, Fair Haven, Middletown Springs, Pawlet, Rutland Town, Shrewsbury, Sudbury, Tinmouth, and West Haven have rescheduled the Saturday, May 16 household hazardous waste collection event.

**The newly scheduled date for this event is Saturday, October 3 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Rutland Town Transfer Station.**

Please check the Solid Waste Alliance Communities website at [www.rutlandcountyswac.org](http://www.rutlandcountyswac.org) for updates and additional information.

SWAC apologizes for the inconvenience.

~ **Hand Sanitizer/Purifier** ~

2/3 cup of rubbing alcohol  
1/3 cup aloe vera

## *Please Recycle or Pass Along Tales!!*

**TINMOUTH GREEN UP – 2020**

**Now May 23-June 6<sup>th</sup>!!**

*By Doug Fontein*



Green Up Day is **Saturday, May 30**. PLEASE NOTE: Green Up Vermont has changed to this date from the original May 2<sup>nd</sup> date. The Green Up Committee and the Conservation Commission would like to change Tinnmouth 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, May 23 to Saturday, June 6, 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.

And please maintain social distancing during Green Up. Thank you for your cooperation and clean-up efforts along Tinnmouth's roads.

### **~ Tinnmouth Plant Sale "Lite" ~**

*By Cathy Reynolds*



Due to the Coronavirus pandemic the traditional Tinnmouth Plant Sale held the day before Mother's day, will not happen in the center of Town this year. Instead, we will offer alternate safe venues for selling and purchasing Tinnmouth grown herbs and perennials. All funds support the Tinnmouth Community Fund Continuing Education Scholarships.

The Squier Family Farmstead on McNamara Road will be hosting a mini plant sale for us. It is open daily 10-7, self-serve. Watch Front Porch Forum (FPF) and Facebook (Tinnmouth Plant Sale) for updates and plant availability. By the time you receive this *Tales* this should have launched. Additional plants will be available by appointment or request.

Contact Cathy Reynolds via email [cathyreynolds802@gmail.com](mailto:cathyreynolds802@gmail.com) or phone 446-2928. Additional plants will be available in early May at 143 Channel Road by appointment only. Watch Facebook and FPF for details. Thanks for telling your gardening friends about the new approach. We don't have a great way to get the word out, so share please the locations and contacts. *Your support is appreciated!*

### **~ Tinnmouth Community Fund Scholarships 2020 ~**

*By Cathy Reynolds*

Scholarships for continuing education are available from the Tinnmouth 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](mailto:cathyreynolds802@gmail.com) or 446-2928. Applications are available online on the Community Fund page on the Town's website [tinnmouthvt.org](http://www.tinnmouthvt.org): <http://www.tinnmouthvt.org/college-scholarship-application/>

We offer three scholarships on one application: The Tinnmouth 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 1st by 11:59 p.m.** (*If you miss the deadline, please contact [cathyreynolds802@gmail.com](mailto:cathyreynolds802@gmail.com). The committee will try to accommodate.*) We encourage applicants to spend time writing the essay(s) required. The Tinnmouth 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](mailto:jaquay@vermontel.net). Often a second reader can improve an essay, catch spelling and grammar errors, and help you tell your story more effectively.

The committee hopes to have a community awards night in June to celebrate and award scholarships to Tinnmouth's students of all ages who are continuing their education.

### **~ Summer Camp Scholarship Program ~**

The Tinnmouth Community Fund's K-12 summer camp scholarship program is accepting applications with the **deadline extended until all funds are allocated**. This is a cost-share scholarship and family ability to pay is a consideration. More information and the application can be found at the [tinnmouthvt.org](http://tinnmouthvt.org) website. You can also find your way there if you search "Tinnmouth Community Fund."

### **~ Marion Hambly sends this . . .**

May your path be strewn with flowers,  
Memories, friends and happy hours.

May blessings come from heaven above,  
To fill your life with peace and love.

*. . . An English Blessing*



TINMOUTH CHURCH

~ Tinmouth Community Church ~

Hope. It's the sap in our spirits. Lingering Winter nights warm into flowering Spring days and quicken its flow toward a new blossoming of life now underway. But this year Spring coincides with a virulent and frightening pandemic. Hope is especially crucial in this time of grave uncertainty.

The Earth itself gives us reason to hope and encouragement for the day. Spring and the new life it is bringing forth will come to fruition. Only our abuse of our environment can thwart its productivity. Even then it would recover given time and the cessation of harm.

Spring is underway, light is overtaking darkness and life is coming forth from the tomb of Winter, showing us the faithfulness of Life and encouraging us in this present darkness to keep faith and not lose hope for better days. For even in the depths of our wintery experiences, even in bitter cold grief, the Light of Love shines in our darkness – and the darkness cannot overcome it.

A breakdown of "life as usual" is helping us see again what matters. Personal suffering is making it clear. In the midst of this pandemic we are returning to Love, the name of God and the expressed will of the Holy One for our blessing. The walls that divide us are breaking down and we are loving one another in creative, caring, even self-sacrificial ways. A springtime of compassion is sprouting. And that is hopeful. Yes, Darkness persists. But it cannot sustain itself nor can it extinguish the Light. And that too is hopeful.

So here's our "Hymn of Promise."

By: *Natalie Sleeth*,

1986 Hope Publishing Company

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!*

*In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.*

*From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,*

*In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In faith, hope and love,  
Pastor John*

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

~ Tinmouth Community Church Website ~

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

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](mailto:hzfam@hotmail.com).

~ Susan McIntosh Lloyd Remembered ~

*Sue once used this illustration for a Sunday Church Service: It bears repeating . . .*

A philosophy professor stood before his class and had some items in front of him. When class began, wordlessly, he picked up a large empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks, rocks about 2" in diameter. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

So, the professor picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They laughed and agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. "Now," said the professor, "I want you to recognize that this is your life. The rocks are the important things; your family, your partner, your health, your children - anything that is so important to you that if it were lost, you would be nearly destroyed. The pebbles are the other things that matter, like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else. The small stuff."

"If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your energy and time on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out dancing. Make love often. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, attend a meeting, and fix the disposal. Take care of the rocks first - the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."



*Alan Held sent this . . .*

### **In The Time Of Quiet**

*(written by Pablo Neruda from Chile who died in 1973)*

No one's told the daffodils about the pause to Spring;  
And no one's told the birds to roost and asked them not to sing.

No one's asked the lazy bee to cease his bumbling 'round;  
And no one's stopped the bright green shoots emerging through the ground.

No one's told the sap to rest, deep within the wood;  
And stop the sleepy trees from waking, wreathed about in bud.

No one's told the sky to douse its brightest shades of blue;  
And stop the scudding clouds from puffing headlong into view.

No one's asked the lambs to still the springs beneath their feet;  
To stop their rapid rush and quell each joyful bleat.

No one's told the stream to halt its gurgle or its flow;  
And warned the playful breezes, not to gust and blow.

No one's asked the raindrops not to fall upon the earth;  
And fail to quench the soil in the season of rebirth.

No one's locked the sun down, or dimmed the shimmer of the moon;

And even in the darkest night, the stars are still immune.  
Remember what you value, remember who is dear;

Close the doors to danger and keep your family near.  
In the quiet all around us, take the time to sit and stare;

And wonder at the glory that's unfurling everywhere.  
Look towards the future, after the ordeal;  
And keep faith in Mother Nature's power and will to heal.



To the Tinmouth Community,

Online learning has been successful thanks to the coordinated efforts of teachers and parents. All but a few families are completing assignments, and submitting them online. Projects and reading are videotaped and submitted via phone or internet. Families who are not online are submitting work through the drop box on the front steps of the school. The students are effectively learning, although learning has not proceeded at the pace or depth it would have if children were present in classrooms collaborating, sharing ideas, and receiving guided, and immediate feedback.

Teachers are aware that this fall will require additional measures to instructionally “catch students up.” The district is currently preparing for possible future shutdowns if the pandemic reignites next year. Overall, teachers and the district as a whole are successfully addressing the unanticipated need for social distancing and online learning and preparing for a possible future school closure.

The last day of virtual school is June 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be a MRUUSD Summer Program starting on July 5<sup>th</sup> through to August 7<sup>th</sup>. The program runs from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday.

Graduation for our sixth graders is still undecided. Look to FPF for updates on graduation and summer programs.

The food pickup at MRUHS is anticipated to continue through to June 30<sup>th</sup>. Food is available for pickup at the north end of Mill River High School from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM for any child in our community who is 18 years old or younger on Mondays and Thursdays.

Thank you for your continued support especially in these unprecedented times.

May the best of the past be the worst of the future.

***Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker***  
***Principal***  
***Tinmouth Mountain School***

~ Meeting Highlights~

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

Select Board ~ 4/9/20

**Virtual Meeting Due to COVID-19 Pandemic**

Present were members were Michael Fallar, Cathy Reynolds and Frank Sears, as well as Michael Fannin-Emergency Management Director (EMD), Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Heather McMahon, David Birdsall – Animal Control Officer, Grant Reynolds, Shelly Sears, Rick Fallar, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, and Gail Fallar.

~ COVID-19 Pandemic ~

**MRUUSD** - Board reviewed letter from David Younce, Superintendent of Mill River Unified Union School District, requesting permission to close the play grounds at the Tinmouth School. Cathy Reynolds moved to support the MRUUSD with the following statement, Frank Sears 2nded. “The Tinmouth Select Board expresses its support for the MRUUSD’s necessary action to close recreational spaces on the school property in the interest of public safety and community health as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board understands that this closure will be lifted as soon as is safely possible, in accordance with directives from the Governor’s office or recommendations from the MRUUSD’s insurance provider.” Brief discussion followed, Michael Fallar wanted families stuck at home to be able to run around on the playground, Cathy noted the virus can live on metal for several days, Frank noted liability for the town, MRUUSD will post signs. Cathy R. and Frank S. voted in favor, Michael F. voted no. Cathy volunteered to contact Mr. Younce and Amy Martone, Tinmouth’s School Board Member, with results of the Board’s action.

**Michael Fannin, EMD**, updated Board noting 3 folks had contacted him, but didn’t need help right now, and 2 folks volunteered to help. Everyone seems to be covered by neighbors for now. Liability of the town was discussed regarding volunteers, after discussion, Michael Fannin will research waivers and Gail Fallar will research a volunteer policy with the town’s insurance company (who suggested it). Michael Fannin also expressed a need for a larger space for a food shelf if the need arises – he has spoken with someone from the Church about using the basement, some folks have offered money donations, as there is a need to plan for the future. Board inquired about the need, none right now, asked the EMD to work on a plan and present at the meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Board thanked the EMD for his diligence.

**Virtual Meetings:** Board voted to have all town committee meetings meet virtually, as allowed by law.

~ Highway ~

**Eric Buffum (E.B.)** – Eric B. reported the road crew was grading and graveling back roads. Grader is repaired. He asked the Board to approve hiring Glenn D. Merrill as

a part-time road crew member. Board questioned the need right now, Eric B. responded help with trucking and for work on the salt/sand shed – it was proposed that the town hire a couple of temporary people – one to help Eric with the site work and one to help Ronnie maintain the roads. Cathy noted there was money budgeted for that in the bond proposal. Board voted to hire Glenn as a part-time worker as funds and projects allow at current hourly rate per the FY20 salary schedule.

**Potter’s Brook Structures Grant Application** – After brief discussion - grant requires 20% match (in-kind and special projects budget line will cover), Board voted to approve and authorized Eric B. and Gail F. to finalize and submit an application for around \$43,000.

**Paving on Class 2 Roads Grant Application** – After brief discussion, Board voted to apply for a \$175,000 paving grant. Intent is to pave southern end of the East Road and then continue on the southern end of Mountain View Road until money runs out.

**Thank you** – Gail F. noted that Hollis Squier could not be present at the meeting, but wished to express his appreciation to Eric B. for the gravel and grading done on North End Road.

**Building Committee** ~ Board briefly reviewed draft guidelines prepared by Frank S. regarding the duties of a committee to be appointed to work on final plans for the town garage and salt/sand shed. Both Cathy R. and Michael F. had comments – Cathy R. volunteered to combine them and send a new version for review for the next meeting (April 28<sup>th</sup>). Committee size was discussed, there are quite a few folks in town willing to serve on the committee. They will be contacted regarding the talent and knowledge they would bring to the committee.

**Loss Control Report** – Board discussed findings. Eric B. advised he can take care of most of the items by the Board’s meeting in May. Frank S. volunteered to help with the MSDS sheets.

**Tax Sale** – Board discussed whether to proceed to a tax sale in the current economic environment. It was noted that this action would be harsh, but the bill will only get bigger the longer the lack of payment continues. Board added this topic to the May agenda for further action.

~ Old Business ~

*East Road Right of Way* – no progress.

*Trash and Dogs on Mountain View Road*– Frank advised as Health Officer, he is still trying to contact the Rutland County Sheriff’s Department for enforcement, noting this has been an ongoing problem. David B., as animal control officer, advised he had received complaints about the Hills’ dogs bothering neighbors. He will try to resolve, but wanted the Select Board to have a heads up as they may need to have a nuisance dog hearing in the near future. This isn’t the first offense. Board asked him to document everything in case there is a hearing.

*FY21 Wage and Salary Schedule* – Board briefly discussed, asked for more detail, postponed further action until 4/28/20 meeting.

~ **New Business** ~

**RFP for Hazard Mitigation Grant** – Board voted to approve as presented.

**RFP for Town Office Roof Over Library** ~ Postponed until 4/28/20 meeting

**2<sup>nd</sup> Constable Vacancy** - After brief discussion, Board decided to leave vacant.

~ **Members Concerns** ~

**Fence on the town green** needs repair – town or school responsibility? Frank S. offered donation from Phil’s Mill – was advised that the rails were split, locust or cedar.

**Update on school slide** requested for the meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Michael F. inquired whether the **old firehouse** could be used for an hour a week, by folks in crisis who would be less than 10 in number, wearing masks and gloves and keeping 6’ social distancing. Frank and Cathy decided no, town buildings are closed.

**Correspondence** – Cathy R. volunteered to respond to the Rutland County Humane Society’s letter requesting town funds informing them about the process for town meeting requests. Board took Vermont Land Trust letter under advisement.

**Select Board ~ 4/28/20**

**Virtual Meeting Due to COVID-19 Pandemic**

Present were members Cathy Reynolds, Michael Fallar and Frank Sears, as well as Michael Fannin-Emergency Management Director, Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Sherry Johnson and Kim Harbaugh, Grant Reynolds, Lenny and Iris Klinger, Doug Fontein (briefly) Hollis Squier and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant.

After a bit of technical difficulty, Frank Sears, called the meeting to order at 7:08. Board reviewed agenda, moved the Health Officer Request (Klinger) to the top, and added repair on East Road, extend dog penalty waiver, and update on school slide.

**Health Officer Request for a Health Order** ~ Frank, as Health Officer, reviewed paperwork he had submitted to the Board, explained the situation at 12 Ezra Stone Road – trouble with electrical, garbage and sewage, and asked for approval for a Health Order for violation of housing codes. The Klingers explained the difficulties they have experienced over the past couple of years, the efforts they have made to correct problems with water, electric, garbage, etc. and are willing to make the repairs but need to evict the tenants in order to do them, they are many months behind in rent as well. They asked the Board to condemn the property. Frank explained the process, once the Health Order is written and served on the tenants and landlord, wheels are put in motion. However with the current Covid-19 pandemic, he was not sure how fast

anything would progress, as there is a no eviction order in effect for the time being. After discussion, Board voted to issue the Health Order.

**Warrants Reviewed** ~ No questions. Frank S. had signed payrolls #40 \$4,439.54, dated 4/6/20 and #41 \$1,469.86, dated 4/13/20, and #42 \$2,481.49, dated 4/20/20; and account payables # 25 for \$ 18,019.86, dated 4/13/20 and #26 for \$11,801.15, dated 4/21/20.

~ **COVID-19 Emergency** ~ Michael Fannin, EMD, reported he is ready daily reports and passing them along to the Select Board. Food assistance is an ongoing issue he will continue to monitor. He advised he will ask the fire department for help if needed at this point as volunteers are not really covered by the town’s insurance company. Gail F. advised that the insurance company suggested the town adopt a volunteer policy, but doesn’t have a model for towns to use. Board will review draft waiver at its May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Town Trails** ~ Doug Fontein, as Chair of the Conservation Commission, advised that the CC had voted to close the town’s cabin and trails at its meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>. He now feels the trails should be open, but signs posted at the kiosks advising that the cabin is closed as there is no way to clean, disinfect or maintain social distancing at the cabin. Board voted to close the cabin but not the trails. Frank S. thanked Doug for his work on the trails.

**Covid-19 Safety Training** ~ All employees are now required to take this and get certified that they did, by May 4<sup>th</sup>.

~ **Highway** ~

**Eric Buffum** reported the road crew is nearly done with first round of grading and cleaning brush and fallen trees from ditches to help with road side mowing. He asked the Board for approval to install an under-drain on the East Road near the Beckett residence. Water seeps up through the pavement and causes ice build up during cold weather. He would like to fix it before it is paved this summer. Work is within the town’s right of way, water will drain into some bushes. Board took under advisement, Frank S. volunteered to take a look and report back on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Board inquired about ditching, Eric B. advised they will be starting soon near the Danby town line to get it out of the way before paving that section of road.

**Status of Public Works re: Governor’s Order** ~ now a moot question as road crews up 5 can work when following guidelines.

**Part-time road crew** ~ Eric B. clarified work will include ditching and changing culverts, at the availability of the new hire – he will track expenses and insure everyone wears masks – they have them.

**VLCT PACIF Safety Inspection Report** ~ Eric B. advised he is working on the issues raised.

**Building Committee (BC)** ~ Board reviewed draft guidelines, removed proposed 7 & 8 and decided there should be 9 members. Select Board Assistant will provide support – declined to be a member of the committee – advised it would be better to have participation from someone from town. Board voted to approve as edited. Board agreed the role of the BC is to work with the architect and others to develop a plan for the Select Board to review. It may involve many decisions to pull it together. VLCT staff has advised two SB members may be on the BC, as long as they are acting as members of the BC, and not as SB members. All concurred. Guidelines will be sent to potential CB members, Board appoint BC at its May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. SBA will send Board names and qualifications of those folks.

**Driveway Permit for John Buckles** ~ Eric B. advised he had spoken with Mr. Buckles, it is a tight spot, but he does not need a culvert, will leave a small swale to allow water to run to the north. Board voted to authorize Michael F. to sign with conditions set by Eric B.

**Draft RFP for Audit** ~ Board reviewed and voted to approve as written.

**~ Old Business ~**

*East Road Right of Way* – Inquiry from town resident on progress. None, still waiting for State to enforce junkyard law.

*Trash and Dogs at 605 Mountain View* – Frank advised again that he will contact Rutland County Sheriff Dept for enforcement – once the Klinger situation is underway – as with the winter snow having melted, there is lots of trash visible that seems to have blown across the road. Frank was thanked for his work on this property. David Birdsall, animal control officer, was not present, but has spoken to the dogs’ owners and advised them to keep them at home.

*FY21 Wage and Salary Schedule* – Discussion included clarification that the Select Board sets the hourly rates/wages, determines rates for new hires, and will review each year at budget time. Also clarified that the town clerk/treasurer hires town office assistants and sets hourly rates based on qualifications and experience, from the range approved by the Select Board. Board voted to approve with those edits/corrections.

**~ New Business ~**

**Waiver of Late Penalty for Dogs** ~ Board voted to extend the waiver for late dog owners to June 1<sup>st</sup>, as the Town office is still closed to the public. Board urged town clerk to be careful when deciding when and how to let the public in. Gail F. advised that appointments can be made, but masks, gloves and health status, are a must.

**Town Fence Repair** ~ Board extended its appreciation to Ann Czar for fixing the split rail fence on the town green/school yard.

**School Slide** ~ Gail reported that Gary Marcy, Facility Operations Manager for the school district, advised their intention to replace the school slide that has to be removed, but with the pandemic, it may be a couple of months before that happens. Board briefly discussed removal, as a couple of folks have expressed interest. They will need to dig out the feet (huge cement anchors). No decision on process/timing of that.

**Fire Warden Re-appointment** ~ Board voted to recommend the re-appointment of Glenn D. Merrill as Tinmouth’s Fire Warden.

**Wallingford Town Line Update** ~ No change.

**Grand List and Tax Bills** ~ Gail F. advised that the State had granted an extension to the all Listers regarding deadlines for filing the grand list due to the pandemic, and had advised Listers to send letters to property owners who had built something as opposed to them doing site visits. This may affect setting the town’s tax rate and when taxes will be due – has to be 30 days notice for tax payers. State also extended the deadline for property owners to file their Homestead Declarations – which also affects the taxes due and the grand list.

**Next Meeting** ~ May 14<sup>th</sup>

**Website Committee ~ 4/14/20**

*With thanks to Cathy Reynolds*

Virtually present were members Nancy Birdsall, Todd Dennis, Cathy Reynolds, and Sherry Johnson.

The committee reviewed the website functionality and made corrections deemed necessary.

Tasks were divided among members.

Sherry will take over the Select Board Assistant task of uploading minutes and agendas to the website. Nancy will train her.

Nancy will update Planning Commission and Conservation Commission (once Library page is added) and Trash and Recycling page. Nancy will create the other committee page (to store minutes and agendas for the 6 other committees).

Todd is updating Tales page, SB agendas and minutes, photo gallery. Community Fund minutes will move to the CF page.

After May 15 Todd will move the community fund grant application documents to the community fund pages.

Cathy will request upgrades from the webmaster.

Policy for uploading minutes was reviewed.

Cathy sent the operation manual to all members.

**Planning Commission ~ No meeting in April**

*(Meeting Highlights continued on the next page.)*



## Conservation Commission ~ 4/20/2020

*With thanks to Chuck Bronk, Sec.*

Virtually present were members Doug Fontein, Nelson Jaquay, Robbie Leeds, Rainbow Squier, and Chuck Bronk.

### ***New Business:***

Green Up Day will be “Do it Yourself” this year and will be scheduled from May 23<sup>rd</sup> through June 6<sup>th</sup>. The State postponed the event till May 30<sup>th</sup>. The Conservation Commission intends to set up a station under the porch overhang at the Old Creamery before May 23<sup>rd</sup>. This will allow individuals to get Green Up bags, gloves, and sign up for a section of the Town’s roads. Doug will acquire the bags and leave them on site. Chuck will provide the left over extra large gloves from last year that Robbie provided plus some smaller sizes. Chuck will also get a larger road map of the Town roads which can be marked with dry erase markers, allowing it to be used for several years. Doug will be on call with his trailer for larger items that people can’t handle with their cars. Chuck will modify last year’s hand painted banner to reflect the date changes and mount it either on the Old Creamery or the fence.

The Commission decided to proceed with the planned site visit to the back lot at the Transfer Station on Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. It is up to individual members if they wish to attend. Masks were recommended and social distancing will be observed.

Discussion of sponsorship of a Hunter Safety Training was tabled once again as Michael Fallar was not able to join the meeting. There was a brief discussion of the certification of instructors, and the funding support provided by the State.

### ***Old Business:***

Doug expressed his thanks to the crew of Commission members who placed the Amphibian Crossing signs while he was out of the country. The unused signs were stored in the Old Creamery. Doug agreed to remove the signs before July 4<sup>th</sup>.

With the current pandemic restrictions, no group workdays will be scheduled on the Ridge Trail. Doug suggested that it would be OK for individuals to do trail work alone, and that he was willing to loan hand tools. Doug reported that he will continue to work with the property owner to mark and establish switchbacks and will also correspond with the landowner about a possible bypass of the private parcel on the ridge. We will table our efforts to cut and blaze trail from near the Tinmouth Mountain Cabin going North, until social distancing guidelines are eased.

The Commission decided to close down scheduled stays in the Tinmouth Mountain Cabin due to liability issues. Robbie volunteered to make laminated signs to that effect to be placed on the Kiosks and Cabin. Doug agreed to post the same notice on Front Porch Forum.

On the Drachman Trail brush hogging, Doug reported that conditions now are too wet for tractor use. He will try to weed whack to keep brambles down. He urged members to do independent blazing and blow down clearing. Next meeting set for June 15, 2020 at 7:30 PM

### **~ Nature Notes ~**

Patti heard the peepers in our pond today (April 3), no postponement of the spring ritual, the peepers are not maintaining 6 foot spacing either, so Spring is officially here in the south end of Tinmouth.

*Cheers*  
*Vito Macaluso*

Daffodils, Colt(on)’s Foot, Dandelions, Crocuses, and other spring flowers are bringing smiles to many.

Peepers are peeping, turkeys are gobbling, maple sugaring is over, birds of many feathers are singing love songs, lawns are almost ready to mow. Gardens are getting rototilled in anticipation of planting potatoes and the sowing of seeds. Yeah!!

### **~ United States Census 2020 ~**

If you’ve already filed online, thank you. The paper form has arrived, if you do not return it, they will send someone to knock on your door to see if you need assistance!! You are required to complete the form as it is very 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.**

### **~ Community News ~**

*Get Well Wishes* are sent to **Ruth Drachman** and anyone suffering with Covid-19.

*Heartfelt Sympathies* to family and friends of **Fred Wagner**.

*Welcome* to Tinmouth’s newest resident, **Fjalldis Gloria Dana**, born on March 28, daughter of **Tyler Dana** and **Theresa Butts**. She joins big sisters **Valkyrie** and **Astridina**. Congratulations and best wishes!!

*Many thanks* to **Ann Czar** for repairing the town green fence and to **Garden Club members** for sprucing up all the town flower beds!! They look great! The spring flowers planted last fall are a wonderful sight! Tulips are almost ready to burst!

*And thank you* to **Miles, Ari and Benjamin Fallar** for their efforts folding, taping and labeling the last issue of *Tales*. They were a big help to Grampa and Gramma!

~ **Rutland County Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC) seeks public input on Solid Waste Implementation Plan** ~

**News Release:** The Rutland County Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC) - the towns of Benson, Chittenden, Fair Haven, Middletown Springs, Pawlet, Rutland Town, Shrewsbury, Sudbury, Tinmouth, and West Haven is rewriting its Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) to comply with the State of Vermont's Materials Management Plan (MMP). The MMP contains performance standards, including those focused on implementing Act 148 (Vermont's universal recycling and composting law), that each solid waste entity must meet to achieve the following goals:

- Prevent waste from being generated.
- Promote sustainable materials management, with a preference for highest and best uses.
- Minimize reliance on waste disposal (landfilling and incineration).
- Conserve resources, minimize energy consumption, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other adverse environmental impacts.

SWAC's plan will include information on how various waste streams are managed in the Solid Waste Alliance Communities; how members are and will be educated on waste prevention, reduction, and proper disposal; and how SWAC will meet the performance standards in the MMP.

Information on the Solid Waste Implementation Plan can be found at <http://rutlandcountyswac.org/solid-waste-plan/>. We would like to get feedback on the plan from members of the Rutland County Solid Waste Alliance Communities residents, businesses, and stakeholders.

Here's how you can weigh in on the new Solid Waste Implementation Plan. Please submit your comments in writing ([info@rutlandcountyswac.org](mailto:info@rutlandcountyswac.org)). Comments will be accepted until the SWAC Board adopts the final, State-approved draft in October, 2020. Please check the website for updates.

**One public meeting has been scheduled for May 14, at 6:00 p.m.** (Meeting ID: 527 141 285). A second public meeting is scheduled for June 8 at 6:00 p.m. (Meeting ID: 769 358 627). Meetings are available to the public by calling in to a Zoom meeting. To attend, please dial (415) 762-9988. You will be prompted to enter the meeting ID number followed by the # key. You are not required to download the app to use this option.

Contact Information: Pamela Clapp, Administrator, at 802-342-5701 and [info@rutlandcountyswac.org](mailto:info@rutlandcountyswac.org).

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

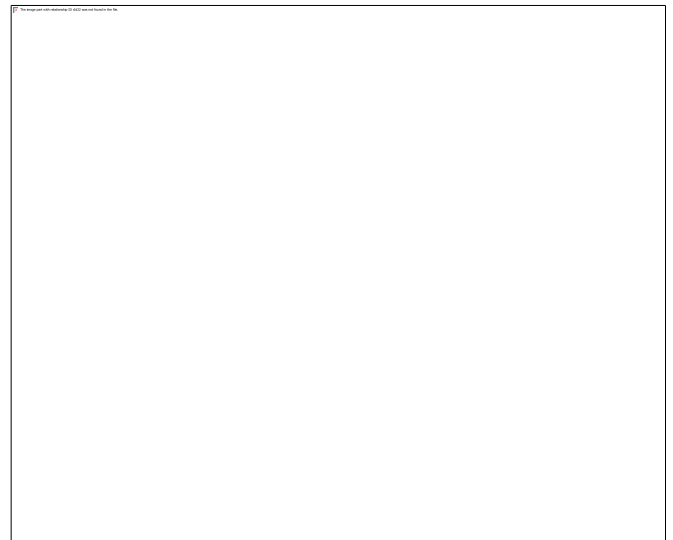
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~ Amphibian Crossing Alert ~

You may have noticed some brightly-colored amphibian crossing signs on the roadsides in Tinmouth. These are placed by the Tinmouth Conservation Commission in areas where there are known migration routes for salamanders, frogs and turtles. These animals move on a seasonal basis to their breeding and egg-laying sites and are at risk of being killed by car traffic where their paths cross roads.

Please slow down and avoid hitting animals when you see these signs on the roads. There are especially high numbers of amphibians moving on rainy spring nights, so pay extra attention in those conditions. If you'd like to know more about amphibian migration, go to [www.vtherpatlas.org](http://www.vtherpatlas.org). Please do not hit, move or disturb our signs, many of which are hand-made, and please contact me if you see a sign that's damaged or moved. The signs will be removed around July 1 and stored until next year.

*Thank you,*

**Doug Fontein**, Tinmouth Conservation Commission  
446-2928

~Tinmouth Blooms ~

*By Rainbow Squier*

We are grateful to announce another year of the Tinmouth Blooms Tree raffle! With thanks to a grant from the Tinmouth Community Fund we were able to buy 10 medium-sized disease-resistant, Liberty Apple trees to be planted by Tinmouth residents willing to care for them. Hopefully they will be planted where everyone can see them as they pass by! Liberty apples somewhat like a Mac, bright red, crispy, and delicious!! And there are blossom to enjoy in the spring!!

We'll draw names out of a hat and if you are one of the lucky winners you'll receive a tree and planting advice. Winners are expected to plant their trees (hole should be about 2' wide by 2 and a half foot deep in loose soil) upon arrival.

Please send an email to [r.squiert@gmail.com](mailto:r.squiert@gmail.com) with the title "APPLETREES" if you wish to be entered into the drawing for a tree. The drawing will be held on May 14th!

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