

TALES OF TINMOUTH

June 2020

Vol. 34 Number 6

Tinmouth
Vermont

Editors' Notes:

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

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

~ Coronavirus Pandemic Update ~

Strict adherence to healthy protocols is what spared Vermont from the possible outcome we could have faced in the wake of the Corona Virus. We were an example to the nation. Now I fear that our progress is at risk. First because the "all clear" signal was sent to the public by a president willing to gamble with public health for perceived political gain and now precautions like masking have become a symbol of division.

Secondly I was appalled over the holiday weekend as I watched thousands in places like The Lake Of The Ozark's gathering in droves without protection. After the usual incubation period the results are coming in and they are not good. But this was small compared to what came next. Now when I see hundreds of thousands in the streets of the big cities around us I see a huge incubator of viral infection on our door step. The virus was beginning to wane and hope was on the horizon now I see defeat being stolen from the jaws of victory. How in the world will our health system handle this?

No one hopes that I am wrong in my projections more than I am. Until we know for sure my message to my fellow Tinmouth residents is to not relax your new found habits of personal behavior and protection. Remember that the mask is worn to protect others and this protocol doesn't work unless we all follow it. Don't be shy about reminding others of this fact. Secondly I'd suggest as I have before to continue to prepare for further hardship. The economics driven by this situation are still playing out. In that good old Vermont tradition, start getting ready for next winter now. Use whatever resources you have to their best advantage and don't waste a thing. Please continue to help your neighbors. I know a lot of this has been quietly going on here in Tinmouth and it makes me proud. Let's continue to work together and hope for the best.

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.

This helps keep you safe and helps keep me and my family safe.

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 continue to follow the guidelines from the CDC and the Vermont Department of Health.

~ Town Office Hours Change ~

Hours have been changed to 9 - 12 and 1-4 on Mondays and Thursdays. Most Saturday mornings 9-12.

~ United States Census 2020 ~

The report from the local census manager shows that only 39 % of Tinmouth residents have responded. There are towns in Chittenden county where they are at 80% already!

Forms need to be completed and returned by July 1st. We need to be counted!! If you do not report online or returned the paper form, the Census Bureau will have to send someone to knock on your door.

Please attend to this as soon as possible. Thank-you for your cooperation!!

~ No Town Wide Tag Sales This Year ~

Looking ahead, and as a concern for safety during the COVID19 pandemic, we have decided not to hold the Tinmouth Town Wide Tag sale this year. Last year we noticed a drop in participation, and given the current climate have decided perhaps every other year may be best.

We hope next year will bring an end to COVID19 concerns and we'll hopefully have more participants!

Tracy Byford and Sherry Johnson

~ June 2020 Calendar of Events ~

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

Fire Dept.	Thursday	4 th	6:30	Fire House
Building Committee	Tuesday	9 th	7:00	Teleconference
Select Board	Thursday	11 th	7:00	Teleconference
Planning Commission	No meeting in June			
Tales of Tinmouth Deadline	Saturday	20 th		Don't Miss It!
Select Board	Tuesday	23 rd	7:00	Teleconference

~ July 2020 Calendar of Events ~

Fire Dept.	Thursday	2 nd	6:30	Fire House
Select Board	Thursday	9 th	7:00	Town Office/Teleconference
Tales of Tinmouth Deadline	Wednesday	20 th		Don't Miss It!
Select Board	Tuesday	28 th	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.

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.

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.



~ Library News ~
By Nelson Jaquay

We at The Tinmouth Library regret not being available to you, and will resume services as soon as it is safe to do so.

Since we'll not be able to honor our faithful volunteers with the annual Appreciation Lunch this year we'd like to send you a heartfelt thanks here for all that you do. We'd particularly like to express our gratitude to our number one volunteer, Librarian Ruth Drachman. Ruth, in the years since you rejuvenated the library, you've provided events, classes for The Tinmouth School children, speakers, fundraising and wise counsel to all of your readers. AND you've invited any number of Tinmouth groups to use the welcoming space for their meetings.

Ruth is recuperating well, faithfully doing the hard work of occupational and physical therapy to get her to recovery. Granddaughters Emily and Rachel and son Peter and many friends have made it possible for her to do all of this at home.

Nelson Jaquay
Tinmouth Library Trustee

~ 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.

~ Homestead Declaration ~

This almost the last 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.

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

~ Dog Licenses ~

Dog Licenses are now past due – there are still about 75 dogs who do not have their new license.

The Constable will soon be given a list of the scofflaws to round up.



TINMOUTH
CHURCH

~ **Tinmouth Community Church** ~

Jesus used many analogies from nature to illustrate spiritual reality. For example, the branches of a grapevine cannot bear grapes unless they remain connected to the vine, conveying our need to remain connected to God in order to bear the fruits of God's Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, and all that is good). Apart from the Vine, not only can no fruit blossom, the branch itself dies. Consider then, what the Coronavirus is saying to us. It is more than a medical condition; it is speaking to our spiritual condition. And it is telling us we are sick in spirit and that this sickness is unto death if we do not address it.

The Coronavirus is unseen, yet wreaks havoc that is very real. We know its presence by its effects, its symptoms, by what it does to the human body and is doing to the body-politic. Just because it is invisible to our eye does not mean it doesn't exist as a serious threat to our health and well-being or that we can disregard it with impunity. Ignore necessary precautions and you might pay with your life or the lives of others. Likewise, our spiritual condition can also be known by its effects, by the fruit our lives bear, whether life-giving or deleterious, blessing or curse. Dismiss or disregard our spiritual health, and we will suffer dis-ease, dis-unity and dissolution.

Individually, symptoms such as anxiety, fear, depression, addictions, and disorders of various kinds may be etiologically more than psychological distress or illness, more than chemical imbalance; they may very well be the cries of our spirit and the prompting of God, telling us we are trying to be healthy and whole apart from the Divine Source of health and wholeness - a disconnection of the branches from the Vine. Relationally, socially and globally the symptoms of strife, division, prejudice, deceit, abuse, oppression, injustice, pollution, violence, terrorism and wickedness of all kinds speaks of a corporate pandemic of spiritual disease that no one and no nation is immune from. Theologically, historically, such sickness of spirit has been called "sin." Many people don't like the religious overtone of the word, still less having to consider its validity and message, so we rarely use it in public discourse. But the spiritual virus it refers to continues to be just as real. Its symptoms are everywhere, manifesting in suffering and in a death toll we can hardly fathom - and don't like to acknowledge. Yet, their existence points to a reality beyond themselves; not only the reality of evil, but also the reality of a God who would use our crises to wake us up to the inescapable imperative to love.

Love is the essence of our spirit made in the image of God, who is Love. So when we fail to love, symptoms of

distress and dis-ease emerge as a sign we have violated our true self, even more than we have offended God. Love, after all, is the only way we can live in harmony with ourselves and at peace with one another. Beyond this awareness, we need Divine assistance if we are to be converted to love and relate to one another compassionately and justly. As long as we ignore or neglect the Divine Source of goodness, we will be mired in our own willfulness and sin dynamic, and continue to suffer the consequences - individually and corporately, and the planet as well.

Painful symptoms highlight problems and our need to address them. By God's design, they are trying to save us. But symptom relief, as important as that is to those who are suffering, is not curative. Cure for sickness of soul is God, who says to us, "People, if you will humble yourselves and pray and seek Me and turn from your wicked ways, I will help you and forgive you and heal you and your land." The spiritual virus that infects us all has an antibody, a vaccine, a cure - living in vital relationship with God and living out the love of God. While we are in this world with its growth pangs, we will suffer the symptoms of estrangement from God, from our true selves and from each other. But there is healing and there is ultimately transcendence as we connect with God through faith and persevere in Love, as Jesus showed us.

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** ~

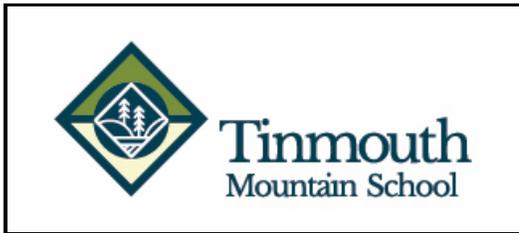
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~ **Curtains Wanted/Needed** ~

The town office needs curtains for the windows in upstairs conference room – insulated if possible, to help keep it cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. Window size is 36" x 72". Eight (8) pairs are needed, they do not need to match, patchwork is more interesting anyways!!

Please call 446-2498 or drop them off in the vestibule. Thank you in advance.



To the Tinmouth Community,

June 9th will be the last day of school. The usual extension of the school year due to snow days was done away with this year due to the forced closure of the school building this spring. The building was closed in late March because of the Covid 19 pandemic.

The majority of the final trimester included unanticipated distant learning. During the final weeks of the trimester, surveys were administered to families that provided feedback on successes and concerns inherent to learning at home. The school district, including teachers, is using this feedback to design future distant learning platforms should the need arise in the fall for distant learning due to a resurgence of corona virus cases.

Report cards did not include traditional proficiency grades of 1 through 4 for the final trimester. While there were many students whose parents were able to tutor their children; there were also many parents working either at home or commuting as essential workers. It would be inequitable and unfair to penalize those families whose ability to home school was limited. Teachers provided report cards with a brief narrative of topics covered and overall progress. Students could not, under the circumstances, make the academic progress they normally would in a collaborative classroom environment with augmenting resources and professional instruction. We are in the process of restructuring next year's schedule and curriculum to allow for additional academic recovery.

When school opens in September it will look different. How different, is yet to be determined. Not only are there limitations on class size anticipated but financial implications that will impact our programs as well.

Our teachers and parents collaboratively addressed the immediate need to home school our children and did an admirable job under the circumstances. Our students are resilient and I am positive that in the fall we will cover any ground lost due to the pandemic as well as continue to advance academic and socio-emotional growth.

I would like to extend my gratitude to parents and teachers for helping our students continue to grow throughout these difficult times!

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

(Letter to the 2020 6th grade TMS graduates)

June 1, 2020

To Miles Fallar, Kellen Laferriere, and Ethan Patch,

You have each enrolled in Tinmouth Mountain School at various points in your elementary school journey. We want you to know that we are honored and grateful to be part of that journey. Each of you has graced our school with a quiet fortitude of character. You grew exponentially as leaders particularly in the past two years.

Younger students look to you for guidance. I have personally seen each of you on various occasions thoughtfully and selflessly guiding younger students both socially and academically. Your compassion toward the school community is admirable. It will be difficult to fill your shoes, and you will be deeply missed.

Your journey ahead will not always have easy choices. Continue thinking deeply about issues and choices at hand. You are well prepared for whatever lies ahead. Always remember your roots - you are from a small school and community with a big heart! This will serve you well! You are each well grounded and we know you will succeed at whatever you passionately pursue.

With that said, we encourage you to follow your dreams fearlessly. We believe in you and wish you the best!

*Sincerely,
The Tinmouth Mountain School Staff*

**~ Tinmouth Community Fund Grant
Tinmouth Blooms Apple Tree Winners ~**

22 folks entered the raffle for 10 Liberty apple trees. Winners were announced at the Select Board meeting: David and Nancy Birdsall, Shirley Bucciari, Jody Buffum, Theresa Butts, Rick Fallar, Meaghan Foell, Joanne Holler, Bess Lewis, Michele Sears, and Rachel Stratton.

Congratulations, hopefully you will be sharing some of these very tasty apples in a few years!



A couple of astute readers advised that the poem included in last month's *Tales*, In The Time Of Quiet, was written very recently, by a British woman, Philippa Atkin, and specifically in response to the corona virus.

It was NOT written by Pablo Neruda.

Marisha did send along this similar poem by him

Keeping Quiet

by Pablo Neruda

Now we will count to twelve
and we will all keep still
for once on the face of the earth,
let's not speak in any language;
let's stop for a second,
and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines;
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.

Fishermen in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt
would not look at his hurt hands.

Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victories with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.

What I want should not be confused
with total inactivity.

Life is what it is about...

If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with
death.

Now I'll count up to twelve
and you keep quiet and I will go.

Please Recycle or Pass Along Tales!!



A Reminder from Your Fire Department.

If you smell smoke or suspect a fire, please call 911 first. Your local Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department members would rather show up to a suspected small fire than be called later when the fire has become larger. We want to help you.

When we show up, we have the equipment to make sure the fire is out, prevent the fire from reigniting and ventilate the structure.

Call 911 FIRST, and then if you can do it safely, use your fire extinguisher. Do not get trapped between the fire and your escape route.

~ Nature Notes ~

Dandelions were very prolific this year – fields were covered with their golden heads dancing in the sun. Too soon, those same fields were covered with ghostly globes, which the wind quickly blew sowing the seeds afar.

A local weather person noted that we experienced all four seasons in May. Winter began the month, with three inches of snow, then a week of below average temperatures of Spring, the next week saw a record high for the month of May of 95 degrees, and this was quickly followed up by the cool weather of Fall at the end.

~ Community News ~

Get Well Wishes are sent to **Beth Eaton, Ruth Drachman, Charlie Wrobel** and anyone suffering with Covid-19.

Congratulations to Mill River Unified Union School District graduates **Cole Aines, Kasey Cook, Colby Fox, Sadira Majorell, Allison Nemeth, Jaron Rochon, and Kameron Smith**. Good luck in your next endeavors.

Congratulations to Tinmouth Mountain School 6th graders **Miles Fallar, Kellen Laferriere, and Ethan Patch**.

Please see page 6 for graduate photos compiled by Shirley Bucceri. These will be in color in Tales posted on the town's website.

Heartfelt Sympathies are sent to family and friends of **Bryce "Pee Wee" Towsley**, longtime Tinmouth Ponder; and to **Jacque Lockwood** and family for the loss of her Mom.

Mill River Union High School – Graduating Class of 2020 – Congratulations to all!



Sadira Majorell



Kameron Smith



Cole Aines



Colby Fox



Jaron Thomas Rochon

Tinmouth 6th Grade Graduates



Miles Fallar



Allison Nemeth



Kellen Laferriere



Kasey Cook



Ethan Patch

~ Meeting Highlights~

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

Select Board ~ 5/14/20

Virtual Meeting Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Present were members Cathy Reynolds, Michael Fallar and Frank Sears, as well as Doug Inkley, Michael Fannin-Emergency Management Director, Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Heather McMahan, Sherry Johnson and Kim Harbaugh, Grant Reynolds, Hollis Squier and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant.

After a bit of technical difficulty, the meeting was called to order, Board reviewed agenda, moved Covid-19 to the top, added Mr. Inkley's concern about Wright's Road, and update on 12 Ezra Stone Road.

Highway ~

Doug Inkley expressed concern with road run-off during storms polluting Wright's Brook. Eric advised he had contacted Josh Carvajal, the state's stream guy, appointment has been pushed back a week. Doug expressed his appreciation for the situation being looked into and taken care of. Cathy advised the process was just beginning. Hollis advised some of the water was coming from the driveway to old maple sap shack and that perhaps a culvert could be installed south of the parking area. Doug advised he would take care of turning the water on the driveway and installation of a culvert was fine with them.

Eric Buffum reported the road crew is busy grading and ditching. Eric inquired about the Navistar recall regarding the older tandem dump truck (due to problem with motor). Gail advised that the paperwork had been sent in for the \$15,000 rebate per the Select Board's decision. Repair on the East Road near Regimbald's was approved after brief discussion. It will involve digging up one lane, installing a drain pipe to daylight towards the hedgerow south of Beckett's mobile home. Frank and Eric reported the Regimbalds are okay with the project. Eric advised he will fix it just before the road is paved to reduce the amount of time folks will have to drive over the area.

Paving Bid Specs ~ Board reviewed, need clarification regarding depth of shim and top coat, add shouldering requirement, and clarified that the entire \$100,000 will be expended. SB will review again on the 26th.

VLCT PACIF Risk Assessment Report ~ Eric B. reported all has been taken care of with the exception of filing the MSDS sheets.

Chloride ~ Michael Fannin inquired when the chloride would be spread to control dust, Eric advised he was planning on grading again soon and then would apply.

Building Committee (BC) ~ After brief discussion, Board voted to increase the size of the committee to 11 to

allow the Board to appoint everyone that volunteered. Board then appointed the Building Committee: Cathy Reynolds, Michael Fallar, Eric Buffum, Ronnie Crossman, Hollis Squier, Bart Eaton, David Birdsall, Theresa Butts, Andy McCullough, Harold Hunter and Lothar Schmelzenbach. SB will meet with them on the 26th to discuss duties.

Roadside Mowing ~ Hollis advised he is willing to continue, inquired about timing. Cathy R. noted the Road Resilience Report encouraged cutting poison parsnip by June 30th. Cathy R. also raised concern about mowing of road side lilies. Hollis noted he leaves them when he can – on someone's lawn for instance, but if they have brush growing out of them, they need to be cut (and shouldn't be in the town's right of way in the first place). Frank S. moved and Cathy R. 2nded to hire/contract with Hollis for summer roadside mowing, attempting to have it done once by June 30th. Both voted in favor, Michael F. recused himself as Hollis is his uncle.

Safety Lines on East Road ~ Sherry Johnson raised on concern with the lack of line striping on the East Road. It was paved late last year and the state was not able to complete the painting before winter set in. It will need to be researched.

COVID-19 Emergency ~ Michael Fannin, EMD, reported it's a slow moving roller coaster, lots in flux, will need to keep one's guard up for 12 to 14 months for the virus, economic crisis may be longer. Board and EMD discussed volunteer waiver form, need guidance for who will be required to sign it, etc. Board tabled until June meeting. Michael Fannin expressed his concern regarding his liability regarding being EMD.

Tax Sale ~ After brief discussion, Board voted to authorize Delinquent Tax Collector Cat Yoder to proceed with tax sale on the Tracy Baker Gioffi property, Cathy R. and Frank S. both voted yes, Michael F. abstained.

Tinmouth Community Fund Grant Apple Tree Winners ~ Cathy reported that 22 folks had entered the raffle for 10 Liberty apple trees, as the SB was meeting virtually, Tracy Byford and Chuck Bronk had overseen the drawing of the names from a hat earlier in the day, with the assistance of Madden Gholston and a friend. Winners are: David and Nancy Birdsall, Shirley Bucceri, Jody Buffum, Theresa Butts, Rick Fallar, Meaghan Foell, Joanne Holler, Bess Lewis, Michele Sears, and Rachel Stratton.

Old Business ~

Trash and Dogs at 605 Mountain View – Frank advised he is working on letter and order to be served regarding the trash.

New Business ~

RFP for Town Office Roof Over Library ~ Postponed
School Slide ~ Cathy R. noted that the MRUUSD needs to go through the Select Board regarding the slide removal and its replacement.

Members Concerns ~ Cathy R. expressed concern with the new virtual meeting program – glitches delayed the start of the meeting – Gail will work on it.

Capital Building Fund Interest ~ After brief discussion, Board voted to allocate the interest accumulated to date and to include June 30, 2020, to the highway side of the Capital Building Repair Fund. Current amount is \$33,018.

Next Meeting ~ May 26th Board requested the SB agenda be light to enable them to meet with the Building Committee.

Select Board ~ 5/26/20 and Joint Meeting with the Building Committee

Virtual Meeting Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Present were members Michael Fallar, Frank Sears and Cathy Reynolds, as well as Sherry Johnson and Kim Harbaugh, Grant Reynolds, Hollis Squier, Michael Fallar, Cathy Reynolds, Theresa Butts, Andy McCullough, David Birdsall, Harold Hunter, Lothar Schmelzenbach, Bart Eaton, Eric Buffum, Ron Crossman, and Gail Fallar.

Board briefly discussed and then approved paving bid specs.

Board also briefly discussed and then approved fuel bid specs.

As only one audit bid was received, Board postponed opening it until the June 11th meeting, hoping to find out why other companies had not participated.

Board approved request to have the road commissioner deliver mulch to the center area so that the garden club could use it in the town flower beds.

Board discussed centerline striping on the East Road, the state is still getting that organized for this year.

Board authorized Select Board Assistant to speak with Jim Carroll, town attorney, regarding resolution of the Wallingford town line situation.

Board having completed its work, transitioned to the joint meeting with the Building Committee.

Please see those meeting highlights below.

Building Committee ~ 5/26/20

With thanks to Andy McCullough, Sec.

Attending via phone were members Hollis Squier, Michael Fallar, Cathy Reynolds, Theresa Butts, Andy McCullough, David Birdsall, Harold Hunter, Lothar Schmelzenbach, Bart Eaton, Eric Buffum, Ron Crossman, as well as Gail Fallar (SB Assistant), and Frank Sears, Select Board Chair. Joint meeting with the Select Board.

Cathy & Theresa were elected co-chairs and Andy volunteered to be Secretary.

Current Projects

Salt and Sand Shed and Town Garage

Permitting for site. Permit in hand is for the well and holding tank for garage. Still waiting for the stormwater permit from the state.

The Select Board discussed starting with salt and sand shed this year, and leave the town garage for when it is known how much money will be available. It was agreed that there is not enough time in this building season to design and bid and build the garage. There is time to get the site ready and build the salt and shed.

Pricing estimates were from professionals or requests for quotes, to obtain numbers for the bond vote. Not bid through the Town's procurement process. All aspects of the process going forward will need to be bid.

Discussion about Town Garage vs. Salt/Sand Shed:

Bart: notes the garage is more important than the sand and salt shed; Eric: notes the heating is important for morning starts; Frank: trucks and equipment are big investments that need to be protected

The Town approved both buildings to be built for no more than \$850,000.

Waiting for the storm water permit submitted in January.

Sand and salt shed is important because of drainage & traffic, having dry sand and an ample supply of salt for the winter.

It is the hope that the site work estimates are high, and expect this to come down - from \$179k, reduce costs by cutting trees and stump and move rocks from 7k to 2k.

Local folks to be hired for steps. Putting out for bids or volunteer work? Can cut trees now, but cannot stump the lot without permit.

Bart: Has there been an investigation into Steel Building? Cathy: We did ask our architect about Morton or equivalent. He indicated that for unheated buildings there is a cost savings to go with a Morton or similar building. But for heated buildings, the cost savings does not exist in his experience because the building has to meet the State Energy Code.

Lothar to do: Checking out Morton Building pricing. Use Theresa as a resource.

Frank: Make sure we know the specs that Town of Tinmouth has developed by our architect for the Town Garage

Harold to do: Checking into the Wallingford Garage for details on cost, size, etc and report back

Hollis will go visit Rupert VT Town Garage and Sand/Salt. Their sand salt has a steel covering not fabric which may be a better choice. He will try to get cost and vendor info. Also may visit Argyle NY

Eric to do: Will get in touch with Dave to chop trees

Frank: Cost of construction increases YOY

ALL to do: Committee members visit the site and understand the layout that is being permitted (larger format mat to be hung in the town office window. Also discuss with Eric or Ron to understand the challenges of existing needs.

Need info on steel roofed salt/sand sheds vs fabric. Replacing the fabric is expensive (material cost ~ \$20K in today's dollars in 20 years ??)

Eric: researched other town buildings, Argyle New York, and Rupert VT for this sketch. Sized to fit a whole year of sand & salt.

Bart to do: research alternatives to Clearspan and get quotes for similar size. The company must be able to stamp the drawings (engineering stamp required by the State of VT)

Harold-will talk to and perhaps visit Guilford VT who built a fabric sand/salt shed. The Town also got info from Mendon who just built one during our ongoing investigations over the past 5 years.

Planning Commission ~ No meeting in May

Tinmouth Community Fund ~ 6/1/20

With thanks to Helen Mango, Sec.

Conference Call due to Covid-19 restrictions

Present were Board members Jan Krantz (Chair), Cathy Reynolds (Treasurer), Casey Voigtlaender, Todd Dennis, Melody Squier, Asha Carroll, Lisa Patry and Helen Mango (Secretary), as well as Gail Fallar, town treasurer.

Jan welcomed Casey and Todd to the board and thanked everyone for being on the conference call. Jan gave a very brief history of the TCF: Money is held at the Vermont Community Fund. The reserve fund is about 25% of the total, and the rest is in the endowed fund. The TCF is able to fund large projects as approved by the board using the reserve fund. We draw down 5% of the endowed fund each year, as per the recommendation of the VCF, for the various scholarships and community grants.

Helen gave a brief overview of the Community grants, the Continuing Education fund (including the Susan McIntosh Lloyd Memorial scholarship, the Pam Garceau Memorial scholarship (\$2000; recipient determined by the Mill River Union High School and Tinmouth School principals) and the Johnson Family Scholarship (\$2000; chosen by the family for someone entering a helping profession).

Jan mentioned the small business grant fund, the newest "arm" of the TCF – this provides funds for start-up businesses in Tinmouth. This fund still requires discussion.

Jan described how fund-raising is accomplished.

1) Twice a year (July and December), the TCF sends out a letter (included with *Tales of Tinmouth*) soliciting donations. About 500 copies sent. This needs to be worked on that this month. Helen, Casey, Asha and Cathy volunteered to help.

2) Plant Sale – This year's "Plant Sale Lite" at the Squier Family Farm (a HUGE thanks to them!) was a remarkable success (also thanks to Cathy for everything

she does regarding the Plant Sale, and all the helpers). Cathy reported that the "Plant Sale Lite" made \$8128.

Gail reported that the Continuing Education Scholarship fund currently has \$10,328 in the town check book (this does not include funds received for the named memorial scholarships).

Cathy reported that the endowed fund contains \$117,599, the reserve fund contains \$48,643 and the scholarship fund contains \$253,162 (the TCF received two anonymous donations of stock on May 8, worth approximately \$53,000). (*Thank you very kindly whoever you are!!*)

3) Cathy described how, about a year ago, the Plant Sale folks decided that the TCF would need another source of steady income if and when the Plant Sale might finally peter out. The VCF suggested a capital campaign and they held a training session - In 2019 the newly-formed TCF capital campaign raised about \$50,000 (primarily from older folks with retirement funds that have a minimum annual distribution), plus the stock market did very well indeed. The goal was to reach \$100,000. Nikki did a wonderful job drumming up more support for the capital campaign and the TCF was set to make a broad solicitation in March, but that is just when the stock market plunged with the pandemic. So the solicitation was shelved for bad timing. So it was incredibly gratifying to discover the \$53,000 stock donation. As a result, the capital campaign is in great shape.

Cathy reported that the Continuing Education Committee will review the applications for this year tonight at 7:00 p.m. The TCF needs to recommend an amount to distribute. (About \$18,000 is technically available.) For the past couple of years this amount has been about \$11,000. There are seven applicants this year. There is also over \$5000 for the three memorial scholarships.

Cathy suggested rounding up the Lloyd scholarship to \$1200. Asha recommended making slightly more total funding available, with the understanding that the scholarship committee may allocate less. Cathy suggested \$12,000. Board voted that the TCF allocate \$12,000 for the scholarships, and \$133 to supplement the Lloyd scholarship to round it up to \$1200; Motion carried (two abstentions from parents of applicants).

Jan requested volunteers to work on the small business start-up fund committee. Asha and Casey volunteered to serve.

Board voted to authorize the treasurer to withdraw \$2,000 from the Continuing Education fund at the VCF to fund the scholarships.

Melody reported on the K-12 scholarships. It is still unclear which camps are going to run this summer because of the pandemic. There is also still some uncertainty on the part of applicant families.

The Lake Tinmouth That Never Was

By Grant Reynolds

(A version of This article originally appeared in The Tinmouth Channel, Journal of the Tinmouth Historical and Genealogical Society.)

Once there was a dam just south of North End Road on Tinmouth Channel. Actually, almost three dams over time, though one was never completed. The first is supposed to have been built by Obadiah Noble in the late 18th Century to run a sawmill. Probably it was a simple timber crib dam, easily and cheaply erected. Soon after, in 1788, a larger dam was constructed to provide water power for blast furnaces.

A simple charcoal fire can't provide enough heat to melt iron ore, which needs 2200 degrees F. But if a blast of air is introduced, the additional oxygen raises the temperature until iron flows. For a blacksmith's forge a simple bellows, pushed by his apprentice, is enough to make iron flow enough to be worked. But a furnace has much more material to be heated, so it needs large, permanently operating air pumps to bring the material up to temperature. The flowing water operated the air pumps 24 hours a day – a necessity because once a furnace was “in blast” it couldn't cool down. If it did the rapidly cooling material became solid and clogged the inside of the furnace. The only way to get it out was to disassemble the walls, or else abandon the furnace.

The first blast furnace at North End Road was built “on the dam.” Probably an earthen dam, it now appears to be a natural peninsula. Slag can still be found where it stood. In 1808 another blast furnace was built downstream from North End Road. A substantial part of this one still stands. There were also two more furnaces not far downstream, but in the Town of Clarendon. Presumably they benefitted from the water behind the dams, but how is no longer known.

For many years in the late 18th and early 19th Centuries Tinmouth was afflicted with disease. It was blamed by many on the furnace pond – not really a “pond” at 700 acres. The water level probably rose and fell with furnace operations and weather. Petitions to the Legislature urged that the dam be removed. A compromise was reached to draw down the pond when the furnaces were not operating – but they ran steadily from late spring until fall, or until there wasn't enough water. Finally in 1815 the furnace “on the dam” was taken down and rebuilt on the Furnace Brook section of Tinmouth Channel just north of the Vermont Rt. 140 bridge east of the village. The dam at North End Road was taken down at that time. It had created “the Lake Tinmouth that was once.”

In 1914 Hortonia Power Company was incorporated. “The company's initial venture, a hydroelectric station at Hortonville (Hubbardton), was spectacularly unsuccessful. It drew too much water from Lake Hortonia to run its generators, leaving mud in place of beaches. The ire of property owners around the lake forced it to close after only about six years of intermittent operation. In the meantime,

however, Hortonia Power had been acquiring a variety of electric properties and water-power sites in the area...”¹

In Tinmouth this involved buying land south of North End Road up to a line 1050 feet above sea level, the intended height of the dam. The map is accompanied by a set of notes that apparently belonged to a Hortonia official involved in land purchases. The dark outer line on the map shows how big the lake would have been. It isn't clear how many acres it would have covered, but probably over 700. For reference, Lake Hortonia is 500 acres, Chittenden Reservoir 748 acres.

When full it would have been a mighty pool. However, it would have been shallow and the upper (southern) sections would probably have been mud a good deal of the time. Turning the generators would have drawn down a lot more water than the modest amount that flows from the southern parts of the Channel, tributary brooks, and natural springs. Waterfront property on Lake Tinmouth might have been less rather than more desirable, just as the Hortonia Power Company found at Lake Hortonia.

Lake Tinmouth never happened. Why is not entirely clear. Hortonia began a concrete dam on the former earth dam. It is still visible a few feet south of North End Road. According to Hollis Squier, the builders found that the east end of the intended dam was “quicksand” and wouldn't support the weight of a dam. The Hortonia Power Company made more mistakes than angering property owners at its namesake lake. In 1924 it became bankrupt.

Hortonia Power was taken over by Central Vermont Public Service in 1929. CVPS intended to revive the Hortonia dam project. We have a 1930 CVPS property map, similar to the 1915 one, but also showing two tracts outside the pool area. One was 44 acres on the east side of the Channel, between Rt. 140 and Channel Road. It included the Packard sawmill and the broken dam on the Channel. The other tract was the Hoadley Mill property, now a broken dam and wetland south of Channel Road. Both are now included in the Wildlife Management Area.

The State of Vermont bought the entire CVPS property in 1984 using Federal funds. It created the Tinmouth Channel Wildlife Management Area. Much of the land inside the dark line are now part of a Class 1 Wetland.

The map shows the Channel winding through the wetland, with no obvious straight stretches. Yet it has been known as “The Channel” since the 19th Century (see the 1897 topographic map). Supposedly that is because it was used to carry ore by barge to the 1815 blast furnace just north of Rt. 140. Current satellite photos show considerable existing stretches of straight channel, and some faint traces of considerably more. Why weren't they on the 1915 map? The following is a property map, part of a notebook evidently prepared by a land buyer for Hortonia Power Co. The dark line is the 1050 foot contour, the intended maximum size of the pool behind the dam. The map has many penciled notes on it, and the booklet contains a legal description of each property along with occasional

¹ Vt. Division of Historical Places – Application for National Historic Register

comments by the Hortonia employee. Rt. 140 is at the bottom of the map, a narrow section at bottom left ending at the current Channel bridge, while the blob on the right actually crosses Vt. 140.

Thanks to Ali Jenkins for the map and the accompanying notebook.





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