

TALES OF TINMOUTH

August 2020

Vol. 34 Number 8

Tinmouth

Vermont

Editors' Notes:

A sincere thank you to the 3 Tales readers who sent a donation to help cover expenses for paper, printing and postage. Our account is low and still needs help!

Please consider a \$10 contribution to keep Tales going? Thanks!

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

~ August Primary Election ~

August 11th is the statewide Primary – and due to the corona virus pandemic, it will be a bit different this year.

The Old Fire House is the new polling place. You will enter the front door, and exit on the side, down the ramp—one-way traffic. You will have to wear a mask and social distancing will be required, if you choose to vote in person. If you cannot wear a mask, you will be given the ballots and you can vote in your car or on the town office porch and then deposit in an outside ballot box.

You are **encouraged** to vote early (absentee) if you can. As *Tales* is a bit late, if you still have your ballots, please drop them off at the town office on Monday or by 7:00 PM at the Old Fire House on the 11th as most likely they won't arrive in time if you try to mail them.

Thank you to the over 100 voters who have already voted, most August primaries we only have 40 or 50 voters cast ballots.

Polling hours are 8:00 AM until 7:00 PM, if you need/want to vote in person.

~ United States Census 2020 ~

The report from the local census manager shows that less than 50% of Tinmouth residents have responded!! We need to do better.

How many Tinmouthonians/Tinmouthites are we? Anyone want to take a guess?

Forms need to be completed and returned as soon as possible. If you have misplaced your paper form, you can go online to <https://my2020census.gov>. We need to be counted!! If you do not report online or return 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!!

Please Recycle or Pass Along Tales!!

~ Coronavirus Pandemic ~ Emergency Management Update

At this writing our situation is under control here in Vermont. However, the number of cases of Covid-19 are slowly rising. The summer months have brought the usual summer people into the state and we also still have commerce going in and out of our area. We are not totally isolated. Most of the people I associate with in the emergency management field strongly suspect that the situation could take a turn for the worse. There is what is called the I 95 creep where we see the rise in infection coming up from the south via this interstate and causing breakouts along that route which as of today come as far as Philadelphia. If the southern states had not been bullied into opening up their economies too soon, the situation could have been much more favorable. Now the whole country will have to feel the impact of that huge mistake at some level or another.

My suggestion to the people of Tinmouth is to hope for the best, but plan for the worst, which could mean another shut down in the fall. At least now we know where our shortages will likely be, what our priorities are and how to behave in a responsible way. This sort of prudent thinking is reflected in the Governor's recent decision to mandate mask wearing. His administration sees the possible future as I describe above. This allows shop keepers and service personnel to speak with more authority when asking people to mask up when in their vicinity.

Once again I'm asking Tinmouth residents to contact me if they have food issues or other needs at fannin@vermontel.net. If you want to volunteer use the same contact. I'll keep your names in my personal file and not advertise our communication to others.

Michael Fannin

Tinmouth Emergency Management Director

~ Property Taxes Due Date Extended ~

The Select Board moved the first half property tax payment to Thursday, September 17th. Tax bills will be sent out after the Select Board sets the town tax rate at their meeting on August 13th.

~ No Game Supper in November ~

The Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department has decided to cancel the Game Supper this year, due to concerns regarding the corona virus. They thank you for all the past support, it is very much appreciated.

~ August 2020 Calendar of Events ~
All non-essential meetings continue to be postponed.

Building Committee	Monday	3rd	7:00	Teleconference
Fire Dept.	Thursday	6th	6:30	Fire House -Outside
Primary Election	Tuesday	11th	8:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Old Fire House
Select Board	Thursday	13th	7:00	Teleconference
Building Committee	Monday	17th	7:00	Teleconference
Tales of Tinmouth Deadline	Thursday	20th		Don't Miss It!
Select Board	Tuesday	25th	7:00	Teleconference
Building Committee	Monday	31st	7:00	Teleconference
Planning Commission	No meeting in August			

~ September 2020 Calendar of Events ~

Fire Dept.	Thursday	3rd	6:30	Fire House - Outside
Labor Day	Monday	7th	Town Office will be CLOSED.	
Select Board	Thursday	10th	7:00	Teleconference
1st Half Property Taxes	Thursday	17th	4:00	Town Office
Tales of Tinmouth Deadline	Sunday	20th		Don't Miss It!
Conservation Commission	Monday	21st	7:00	Teleconference
Select Board	Tuesday	22nd	7:00	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.

~ 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.

~ Nature Notes ~

Queen Anne's Lace is very lovely, everywhere it seems. It is joined by blue chicory waving to passersby on the road sides.

Speaking of road sides, thank you to Hollis for not mowing all the day lilies. A number of folks really appreciate seeing them nodding as one drives (or walks or runs) by.

Some folks are reporting wonderful gardens. There is lots of extra produce showing up on the benches of the town office. Free cukes, summer squash, zucchini, etc. And some folks have reported deer, rabbits, woodchucks, and chipmunks just gobbling up everything – wild turkeys even visited to consume the raspberry patch!!

A cricket at the town office is chirping inside, a prediction of frost in six weeks . . .

While June was nearly the driest on record, a really big rain on July 23rd woke up the mosquitoes and they multiplied by the millions (or so it seemed).

And July was the hottest July, and the hottest month on record for Vermont!! Humid too.

Not many apples around this year, last year was a banner year, so I guess it's to be expected.

Lots of chipmunks though – and mice – and the mice are trying to sneak inside already, lots of folks have trap lines out to try to control the invasion!!

Thank you to the Tinmouth Gardeners for tending to all the flower beds around the center of town. The one on the south side of the town office has had several wonderful blooming seasons already! The tulips looked like peonies, and then one day a chipmunk was noticed scurrying back and forth across the porch. Lo and behold, he/she was digging the tulip bulbs and carting them away!!

~ Community News ~

Get Well Wishes are sent to **Terry Williams** and **Donna Herrick**.



TINMOUTH CHURCH

~ **Tinmouth Community Church** ~

Compassion. The Latin breaks down the meaning to **com** - with, and **passion** - to suffer. Compassion, a more defined word for love, means "to suffer with" - with those who are suffering.

Compassion. A lot of suffering is happening, always and everywhere, now brought to light and to our attention by the Covid pandemic and by the Black Lives Matter movement. Infections and deaths due to Covid-19 continue to mount in numbers that would precipitate a global war if they were soldiers. Where is the all-out response from our national leadership? Where is the recognition of racism as a systemic scourge within our nation and the commitment to mitigate the sufferings of Black people and other peoples of color by changing whatever is unjust? Where is the compassion that demonstrates genuine concern for those who are suffering?

Even so, there has been an outpouring of compassion from many, if not the vast majority of people, who wear masks to protect others and themselves, and make masks for those who need them; who give their own serum and bodies for antibody treatments and vaccine testing; who donate and deliver food for the many families now in need; who send cards, make phone calls and email words of encouragement; who likewise give free concerts and classes, and create inspiring videos; who march nonviolently or keep silent, but insistent, vigil for justice and the changes needed to procure it; who in a thousand and one other ways are extending their compassion, even willingness to suffer, to help those in need and to change systems of oppression that impose such needs.

Compassion. It is the heart of God, seen so clearly in Jesus, seen in the likes of John Lewis, seen in the likes of yourselves and countless others, who have been moved in our hearts by the sufferings of others, and moved in our hearts to constructive action on their behalf; not pretending there is no serious health crisis, not ignoring the injustices that permeate every system of society, not blaming the victim, not hardening our hearts to those who are suffering and who could be helped through our advocacy and interventions.

Compassion. It is the heart of God/Life, the heart of religion, and in our heart of hearts, as we but open them to the suffering of others.

In faith, hope and love,

Pastor John

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

(Sunday Services and Tuesday and Thursday Evening Prayers online at www.tinmouthchurch.org. Pastor John can be reached at hzfam@hotmail.com or by phone at 802-282-7532)

~ **Foot Trail Around The Pond** ~

Thank-you to the artist(s) who are leaving painted rocks all along the foot path around the lake.

While here, I walk the lake every day and it is all the more fun when I come across the very detailed rocks that are carefully placed along the route.

It makes me smile every single day!

Joe Beil

Legislative Update

Rep. Dave Potter

Over the last weeks of June, the VT Legislature worked on a response to the Covid-19 crisis and wrapped up a budget for the first three months of Fiscal Year 2021. The Legislature will reconvene August 25th via Zoom to finish the last 9 months of a 2021 FY budget and further address pandemic issues.

Before finishing in June, the VT House passed over one billion dollars in Coronavirus Relief Funds. Broken down more specifically, these are as follows:

- \$ 356 million Health Care and Human Services Systems
- \$ 196 million Business and Economic Development
- \$ 170 million Frontline Emergency Relief
- \$ 91 million Housing and Homelessness
- \$ 73 million Higher Education
- \$ 50 million Pre-K thru 12 Education
- \$ 43 million Broadband, Connectivity, Cybersecurity
- \$ 35 million Agriculture and Forestry
- \$ 16 million Justice System
- \$ 13 million Municipal Government

Remember, the Primary Election date is just around the corner on Tuesday August 11th. The General Election follows on Tuesday November 3rd. One may vote either from home, prior to election day, by Absentee Ballot, or in person the traditional way, at the open polls on election day for either election.

The very most important thing that should be on everyone's mind currently, is to successfully get our families thru this pandemic. Follow all safety guidelines and take the threat seriously. A vaccine and end to the crisis is on the horizon.

As always, I may be contacted by email at dpotter@leg.state.vt.us, or by home phone 438-5385, with any input or concerns during this difficult time.



July 30, 2020

To the Tinmouth Community,

There are two significant topics I would like to address in this letter to you. The first is an overview of the anticipated opening of the school year on September 8th. The second topic is a brief reflection on the role of schools and community.

The Opening of Tinmouth Mountain School

The start of school was delayed statewide until *September 8th* to allow time for teachers and staff to prepare for the 2020-21 school year. In the midst of the national Corona Virus pandemic, everyone is shrouded with varying degrees of uncertainty. Vermont has had less fatalities than other states across the nation which precipitates a sense of invulnerability to the pandemic. There seems to be consensus that a resurgence of Corona cases will be forthcoming and mixed reports as to the transmission of the virus as well as the susceptibility of our children and staff. This uncertainty is the basis for opening Tinmouth Mountain School using *remote learning* platforms such as *Google Classroom* and *Seesaw*, rather than *in-person instruction*. These computer programs were designed to facilitate remote learning when children are not physically attending school. The decision to open schools to in-person learning will be revisited on October 9th as the impact of the pandemic is monitored. If the safety of children and staff is more assured on October 9th, then Tinmouth Mountain School will reopen to in-person learning around the 1st of November. Starting the school year with remote learning was a courageous decision that the district leadership team struggled with for weeks. Based on the size of our district, there was a strong probability that there would be one fatality in the Mill River District due to exposure to the virus. That is one too many.

Teachers are currently creating learning modules that integrate reading, instructional videos, and activities designed to optimize remote instruction. This will differ from the unanticipated emergency instruction that was coordinated ad hoc in the spring. Families will receive a weekly instruction guide with proficiencies and goals for each lesson. Additionally, teachers will provide a minimum of three live lessons each week that align with the assigned learning modules. At the start of the week, teachers will be accessible through a live office hour session for questions regarding assignments. Informal

assessments will be incorporated into the module work to inform remediation design and future instruction. At the close of the week, teachers will again have a scheduled live office hour to address concerns.

Teachers are also prepared to transition to in-person teaching when the safety and health of children and staff is certain. Masks and social distancing as well as a shortened school day is integral to this plan which includes transporting a limited number of students by bus and routine health checks.

Reflection on Schools and Community

Before working at Tinmouth Mountain School, I worked at a state university and later a private college. One of the courses I taught to prospective teachers was *The History of Public Education in the United States*. I discovered that many of my students didn't realize that schools in the United States do not function independent of culture and political climate. The curriculum taught to younger generations through educational institutions is based on prevailing, political, economic and even religious beliefs. One example is early colonial schools, which were established to ensure that everyone could read the bible. During the Industrial Revolution, schools were vehicles for Americanizing the large number of immigrants who arrived from southern and eastern Europe to work in city factories. Throughout the *Sputnik* era of the 1960's, school curriculum and funding championed mathematics to assure an adequate supply of engineers for the national defense and aeronautics programs. This guaranteed the US remained competitive in a world arena. Litigation regarding special education and inclusiveness has expanded over the past ten years and attests to the current focus of educational institutions on social justice and equity. This recent change in focus launches emotionally charged debates and defeats even the strongest communities.

But it doesn't have to.

When I came to Tinmouth five years ago, I knew community was important for children's academic success. My understanding of community was superficial in that I oversimplified it as "the willingness to volunteer." I was concerned with how the next generation of parents in Tinmouth will continue to nurture the sense of community that makes Tinmouth so unique. Younger couples seem inundated with work and didn't have the time to volunteer. I began asking and observing, *How did the previous generations of Tinmouth manage to build a community building, garden club, college fund, and pizza oven?*

After a few years of observing, listening, and asking questions I realized that many Tinmouth residents inherently knew that community is an attitude. It is a belief that we are all struggling and that it's up to each of us to reach out and support each other in whatever way we can. This takes true humility. It also includes listening, and respecting viewpoints whether we are in agreement or not. When emotionally charged issues arise we honor the individual and the relationship we have, even when our perspective differs. Violence, including verbal ridicule severs community relationships. This is a lesson each generation re-learns.

It is also a lesson we teach our children who watch our behavior closely. What they observe is written in their memories with indelible ink while what we say fades almost immediately. Emotionally charged issues will always arise that threaten community relationships. But these are also opportunities to teach children to question and look for various perspectives through open and respectful discussion. Furthermore it is an opportunity to model for children how to think critically, disagree constructively and respectfully, and the importance of preserving relationships. It's how children learn to value community and grasp its importance.

Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker
Principal
Tinmouth Mountain School

**Kudos to Jo Reynolds ~
Conservation Commission Vacancy**
By Doug Fontein

Jo Reynolds, longtime Tinmouth Conservation Commission member, has resigned her post. We regretfully accepted her resignation at our meeting Monday night. Many thanks to Jo for her commitment to conservation issues, not only on the Conservation Commission, but throughout her life. This includes her longtime involvement with the Girl Scout movement, hiking the entire Appalachian Trail and supporting the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, spearheading the acquisition of a canal boat for the C&O Canal National Park and many other instances of generosity with her time and resources to help preserve and protect our natural heritage.

If you are a Tinmouth resident and are interested in filling the vacancy, please contact Doug Fontein, CC chair, Gail Fallar-town clerk, or a select board member.

*Thank you,
Doug Fontein 446-2928*

~ Meeting Highlights~

*(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)
All meetings are virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Select Board ~ 7/9/20

Present were members Michael Fallar, Cathy Reynolds, and Frank Sears, as well as Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Doug Inkley (7:00-7:15), Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Heather McMahan, Michael Fannin-Emergency Management Director, Grant Reynolds, and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant.

Doug Inkley expressed concern again for road run-off polluting the stream from the Big Spring, provided a video of yesterday's storm. Board took under advisement.

~ Highway ~

Eric Buffum reported ditching continues on Wright's Road; repair near Regimbald's is done as well as replacing a driveway culvert at Ushers in anticipation of Fuller Sand and Gravel paving week after next. Board inquired where ditching would occur next, Eric unsure, depends on summer work schedule, Glenn's availability, etc.

Hollis Squier sent a message via the select board assistant to express concern for many clogged culvert ends he noticed while roadside mowing. Eric advised they had been taken care of. Hollis also advised that it had taken more time mowing the roadsides this year, as the roadsides were not cleared of debris, and his equipment was damaged. He will re-mow the paved roads later in the summer. Eric advised the road crew had spent two weeks working on it. Frank suggested Eric and Hollis speak about it.

Old One Ton Truck Bids ~ None received, Board discussed options, need a for sale sign for the truck, will try again in a couple of months.

Fire Wood Bids ~

Bidder	Pile #1	Pile #2	Pile #3	Pile #4
Roscoe Jones	\$351.25	\$301.25	\$301.25	\$251.25
Doug Fontein	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Hollis Squier	\$ 55.13	\$ 55.13	\$ 55.13	\$ 55.13
Paul Herrick	0	0	\$178.00	0
George Herrick	0	0	0	\$305.00
Terry Williams & Rick Fallar	\$140.00	\$180.00	\$180.00	\$350.00

The Select Board awarded the bids to Roscoe Jones, high bidder on piles #1, #2 and #3, and Terry Williams/Rick Fallar high bidder on pile #4.

Highway Equipment Fund ~ Need to update, add to agenda for 7/28 or 8/13, need to sell old one ton before purchasing new tandem. Eric will research best time to buy, delivery dates, etc.

Stumps~ Eric noted he is waiting for return calls from grinder vendors, may shake them out and burn them on

the brush pile. Discussion about creating a stump dump, what the state requires or allows, can they be buried, need more research.

Harrington Cross Road ~ Eric estimated cost of \$5,400. Board requested more detail. He advised there are stakes to show the layout, there will be a flatter spot (25') at the top to allow for better access to Route 140. Also discussed whether the Grant-In-Aide will provide any assistance, need to check with RRPC.

Channel Road Buried Lines ~ Frank advised he hasn't been able to contact VTel or Fred Aines, as he had to take care of a tick bite issue.

~ **COVID-19 Emergency** ~ Michael Fannin, EMD, advised that there seems to be a lull before the next round arrives. State is contact tracing, being a good model for the rest of the country. He noted he still supported a volunteer waiver form. Board inquired about what other towns are doing about it, he will research. Board thanked him for his time and effort.

LHMP (Local Hazard Mitigation Plan) ~ Current plan expires in October, Board reviewed contract from Rutland Regional Planning Commission. Cathy expressed concern for "in-person" meetings, they will have to have virtual. Board voted to accept RRPC contract and authorize Michael Fallar to sign for the Board.

Open Mountain Camp? ~ Board discussed limited use (only 6 overnights in the last year) and decided to leave it to Cathy's discretion (she is the manager for its use). She will edit rental contract to include covid-19 notice. Board voted to re-open the mountain camp.

Building Committee Report ~ Michael updated the Board – BC members are still looking at salt/sand sheds, foundation may be more important than previously thought. Storm water permit is still under review by the state. SBA will contact Otter Creek Engineering again in regards to the storm water permit.

Financial Reports ~ Board reviewed draft, questioned delinquent taxes received – includes FY20 taxes as well as earlier years. Property taxes received were \$57,000 less than budgeted so these become delinquent and get recorded in that account number when received by the delinquent tax collector. Board discussed how to show highway balance as it can roll over from year to year, how is that tracked? Gail advised that the engineering expenses for the new town garage/salt/sand/shed projects have been taken out of regular highway budget, not the Capitol Building Fund.

Warrants Reviewed ~ Frank S. had signed FY20 payroll warrants #51 for \$1,377.09 - dated 6/22/20, #52 for \$1,835.60 – dated 6/29/20, and #53 for \$5,626.06 - dated 6/30/20, and FY21 payroll warrant #1 for \$1,409.92 dated 7/6/20; and FY20 account payables # 31 for \$22,091.60 – dated 6/29/20, #32 for \$23,135.59 dated 6/30/20 and #33 for \$5,141.11 dated 6/30/20. With no questions or comments, Board voted to approve.

Highway Time Sheets ~ Board discussed need to increase detail, will be needed for grant work, projects, work on town garage, etc., will ask each employee to complete their own, to include start and stop times for each duty, project.

Audit Bid ~ Board reviewed bid from Sullivan and Powers, only bidder, for \$29,000. Need to have a professional audit to be able to borrow from the Bond Bank. Board discussed options, concern with economy, social and political concerns, etc. Cathy moved to accept audit bid from Sullivan and Powers, Frank 2nded. More discussion, then the vote – Cathy and Frank voted yes, Michael abstained. Motion carried.

~ **Old Business** ~

Trash and Dogs at 605 Mountain View – Frank advised he will document progress to date for the Board at the meeting on the 28th.

12 Ezra Stone Road – Judge ordered tenants to leave by July 9th. Frank advised that the Judge called him to confirm/verify his report on conditions at the home. He will need to inspect once clean-up and repairs are made and before new occupants are allowed.

~ **New Business** ~

RFP for Town Office Roof Over Library ~ Reviewed draft, added warranty language (labor and materials for one year), Board voted to approve as edited and to have bids due at next Board meeting on July 28th.

Rutland County Sheriff's Department Contract ~ Board voted to accept FY21 contract and authorize Frank to sign. Contract is for 10 hours per week for law enforcement and traffic control.

Unlicensed Dog Warrant ~ Cathy and Frank balked at signing the warrant – standard language includes constable/animal control officer being able to destroy the animal – it's too mean. Frank offered to re-write a kinder gentler version for the next meeting.

Census ~ Board reviewed data from Vermont census staff indicating that Tinmouth folks are not filling out the census form, Board needs to encourage everyone to participate in the census. Still only at 39%.

Select Board ~ 7/28/20

Present were members Michael Fallar, Cathy Reynolds, and Frank Sears, as well as Hollis Squier, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Heather McMahan, Howard and Debbie Buffum, and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant (SBA).

Frank called the meeting to order at 7:01 and welcomed everyone. Board reviewed agenda, and added 72 Snow Mountain Lane (Buffum), VTel (buried cable), new truck, sale of old one ton, Wright's Road update.

Highway ~

Eric Buffum reported ditching continues on Wright's Road, paving went well, hand raked driveways with gravel, received a complaint about the intersection of

McNamara Road and Maple Brook Lane, road run-off water is creating a ditch, he will investigate and report back.

Stump research, none done.

Harrington Cross Road ~ Eric estimated cost of \$7,040 – not including culvert already on hand. Grant-in-Aide (\$6,100) will provide some assistance (culvert and ling ditch with stone), remainder will come out of Special Projects line. Michael expressed concern that the eastern ‘Y’ intersection of Harrington Cross Road and North End Road was more of a hazard/safety issue. Eric noted benefits of the western ‘T’ included improved safety, better site view, better drainage, and easier maintenance. After discussion, and an estimate of less then \$1,000 to do the eastern ‘T’ as well, Cathy moved and Frank 2nded to approve both projects. Cathy and Frank voted yes, Michael voted no. Motion carried.

Wright’s Road ~ still waiting for response from state guy.

New Tandem ~ Eric is working on research for the best time to buy, delivery dates, etc.

Old One Ton Truck ~ Board discussed options, keep on Craig’s List, Facebook, keep trying to sell, minimum of \$25,000 – will the first person to offer that buy it? Does it need to be re-bid or can the Board just approve an offer? Does the Town need a policy for disposal of town equipment/property? Could it be sold on consignment? Eric agreed to remove the chloride tank.

Channel Road ~ Frank reported he had spoken with Judy Patton from VTel who advised that she was not aware it was not 30” deep, will check with installer and have him fix it if necessary. Hollis reiterated that by statute VTel has to ask for the Select Board’s permission to bury any lines in the town’s right of way. Board discussed fiber optic project of a few years ago, asked if this was included in that permit. SBA will research for next meeting.

Others ~ 72 Snow Mountain Lane - Howard and Deb Buffum(owners) had contacted Frank as Health Officer to report a trash mess regarding tenants Pierre and Ann Cotton, due to a bear finding a mountain of it to rummage through. Frank advised he provided the tenants a copy of the Town’s Trash Ordinance and gave them a warning letter to clean it up.

Board discussed enforcement of the trash ordinance, who does it, does it need a time limit to comply, can the constable enforce, etc. Does the town have any tickets, can we get them from the Judicial Bureau?

Cathy moved and Frank 2nded to designate the Rutland County Sheriff’s Department, the town constable, and the Health Officer as enforcement officers for the Solid Waste Ordinance. Cathy and Frank voted yes, Michael abstained. Motion carried. Frank asked Howard and Deb to inspect to see if the tenants had cleaned up the trash as promised.

Building Committee (BC) Report ~ All three Board members attended the virtual meeting – no Select Board business was discussed. BC is progressing with salt/sand shed planning.

Financial Reports ~

Warrants Reviewed ~ Frank had signed FY21 payroll warrants #2 for \$1,409.92, dated 7/13/20; #3 for \$1,409.80, dated 7/20/20; and #4 for \$ 2,671.79, dated 7/27/20; and FY21 #1 accounts payable for \$22,537.00 dated 7/23/20. Board voted to approve.

Highway Time Sheets ~ Board again discussed need to increase detail, asked SBA to discuss with road crew, check what other towns are using, create a legend at the bottom that explains work done abbreviations. Also inquired about 4 hours of overtime for EB, SBA will check.

Old Business ~

Trash and Dogs at 605Mountain View – Frank advised he left a warning letter and a copy of the Solid Waste Ordinance on 7/28/20, will report back. There is yet again another wall of trash building up. Gail advised the dogs are not licensed.

12 Ezra Stone Road – Frank advised he has not received request to re-inspect, he assumes clean-up and repairs are being done.

New Business ~

Unlicensed Dog Warrant ~ Frank is still working on the re-write of a kinder gentler version for the next meeting.

Census ~ Board reviewed data from Vermont census staff indicating that Tinmouth folks are not filling out the census forms, only 46.7% have responded. Board wondered how to encourage everyone to participate in the census.

Bears ~ Board discussed bears in the center of town, have been seen and made messes at the transfer station, Mackey, Krantz, Jaquay, and Nauton residences. Cubs were seen on Channel Road. Michael advised he had contacted the game warden, everyone has to take action to deter the bear(s), (transfer station now has an electric fence around the dumpster), before the game warden will allow lethal force to dispose of the varmint. Michael will follow up.

Bids for Town Office Roof Over Library ~ Board opened two bids – Brice Home Improvements bid \$5,850 and GoldenBrook Construction bid \$5,980. After brief discussion and comparison, Board voted to award the contract to Brice. Work must be completed by November 1st.

Mentor Connector ~ Gail advised that this organization had made in inquiry about placing signs in the town’s right of way, no further information was sent, Board took under advisement.

Food Truck – Sherry inquired when the food truck was coming to town, Gail noted no further correspondence had been received after Board’s decision to allow it.

Executive Session ~ At 8:43, Board voted, based on advice of counsel, to have the Select Board enter executive session, as premature disclosure regarding possible civil litigation with the Town of Wallingford would be detrimental to the interests of the town. At 8:43 Board voted to enter executive session to discuss the town line dispute with Wallingford, to include Gail Fallar.

Board exited executive session at 8:50. No action taken.

Building Committee ~ 7/6/20

G. Fallar, Temporary Scribe

Present were members Cathy Reynolds, David Birdsall, Eric Buffum, Bart Eaton, Ronnie Crossman, Michael Fallar, Harold Hunter, Andy McCullough, Lothar Schmelzenbach, and Hollis Squier, as well as Heather McMahan, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, and Gail Fallar.

Gail advised the storm water permit is still under review. Cathy noted that the Select Board has been working on the site design for 2 ½ years that includes one big salt/sand shed, any change may require re-engineering.

Report for five years of sand and salt use is not quite ready. Members wanted more than 3 year average (469 tons of salt, 1300 yards of sand). Eric advised he has been adding gravel to the sand, a practice being used by several neighboring towns.

Members discussed snow load; state standard is 50#. This will need to be one of the specs.

Eric reported he had talked with the Mendon Town Administrator; their sand and salt usage is similar to Tinmouth's, they built a new shed a few years ago half the size of quote from last year, wishes it was twice as big. He will call them to get more details.

David had forwarded information from the Local Roads listserve – two or three towns submitted information about their salt/sand sheds, very expensive. Dave wondered if there are any grant opportunities. Proctor's facility was discussed, couldn't use waste blocks. Michael will check with Stan Wilbur, their Town Manager for details.

Bart reviewed information he provided – hard to compare apples to apples. Generally 8-12 weeks from date of award until construction.

ClearSpan will charge extra for stamped engineered drawings \$3,750 per building, prefers two buildings, estimate for 50# snow load is quite a bit more than their first quote (2019) as they used a 30# snow load.

Greystone has 8 foot walls, corrosion inhibitor in the concrete. SteelMaster won't go wider than 50 feet, so two buildings would be needed.

Bart had also provided draft bid specs from Greystone, seemed much more complicated than needed, works for their proposal. Members wondered who would write the bid specs.

Members discussed height required for salt truck to dump inside (36 feet), whether to push it in, how high to pile the sand, how high the side walls need to be, how high the ceiling needs to be. As well as waste block quality, whether they will be stamped by an engineer, how high to stack – 3 or 4 high, corrosion inhibitor, etc.

What needs to be done to bring a recommendation to the Select Board?

Clarify foundation requirements, whether concrete blocks will work or if it needs to be poured, what additives it may or may not need.

Two buildings would work, may need stormwater permit amended.

It was suggested that savings may be found by paving only the salt portion of the building. Hollis advised it would be best to pave it all.

Questions for engineer – can two buildings be built without amending the storm water permit, can the size change, build half now and half later, re-permitting time frame, square footage of building, etc. Gail will contact Otter Creek Engineering.

Members discussed the need for engineer stamped drawings for a building that is designed for 50 lb snow load. Some companies provide this - others charge extra.

Eric noted the sand gets hauled before winter, as the sandpit is not open in winter. It was noted that he has been also using gravel/stone mixed with the sand for the last few winters.

Salt can be delivered all winter. It comes in a giant dump trailer. Need tall ceiling for dump trailer to dump. In big storm winters, the town has had trouble getting salt, being a very small customer and not a priority delivery. It would be better to be able to store more than a storm or two's worth of salt.

Building only half now - may cost more in the future, need more permitting, etc. Keep all options on the table at this point, unforeseen expenses may occur during construction, as there is a finite amount of dollars to spend for salt/sand and garage.

Discussed Lothar's difficulty in getting Morton Buildings to respond to his inquiries, will try to contact local Morton employees to see if they can help.

Dave B is going to get contacts for other towns with fabric buildings for salt/sand.

Building Committee ~ 7/20/20

With thanks to Theresa Butts, Co-chair

Present were members Theresa Butts, Michael Fallar, Hollis Squier, Bart Eaton, Eric Buffum, Ronnie Crossman, Cathy Reynolds, Lothar Schmelzenbach, and Harold Hunter, as well as Gail Fallar, Kim Harbaugh, Sherry Johnson, Frank Sears, and Heather McMahan.

Members reviewed salt and sand usage chart. Bart converted to tons for easier comparison.

Hollis reported he visited Poultney's sand/salt shed; has a metal roof which creates lots of condensation; Eric noted there's no ventilation in Poultney's structure, Bart notes ventilation is key!

No one else made salt/sand shed visits.

Bart gave update on ClearSpan and others; only 1 height works for what we need; Theresa questioned if space needs to be figured in for gravel and stone mixed with sand-Eric noted that was already figured in, and if 36 feet is needed to dump the salt in, if that is the height of the truck while dumping or is this the height we would need to accommodate a truck dumping-Eric noted that 36' is the height of the salt dump truck and the height we would need to accommodate the salt dump truck.

Michael reported he has talked to Stan Wilbur (former Proctor town manager and former Tinmouth Select Board member), and advised that public buildings require an engineer's stamp for the foundation and that waste block's do not meet specs and would not be approved by the fire marshal.

Bart noted that stamped drawings were \$3,750 per building not including the foundation from ClearSpan.

It was noted that ClearSpan charges an additional 20% if buildings are built during October, November or December; will need avoid those months to prevent additional costs. Michael noted that we are realistically looking at spring of 2021 for building both buildings (salt/sand shed and town garage), several members verbally agreed.

Cathy brought up Gail's email exchange with the engineer (Craig Jewett). It was mutually agreed upon that we need further clarification on square footage and what "same general location" actually means from his standpoint, and that we should confirm his answer in writing. Eric noted that if we do two separate buildings for the sand and salt shed that we would need 10 feet between the two buildings to help remove the snow load, Bart mentioned that backfill might create issues, Eric agreed.

Cathy did a budget review and explained how the budget was crafted. We are currently over budget for permitting and the audit was double (\$15K budgeted, actual cost is \$29K). Bart questioned the estimated labor of three weeks; backfill, compact, digging footings increased time; several members agreed.

Cathy questioned who we hire to design a stamped foundation? Also questioned what level of construction management are we comfortable with - adding in, that maybe we should have a clerk of the works, or a construction manager, and noted that we have had volunteers in the past to fill these roles.

Lothar volunteered to contact concrete contractors to get information regarding the corrosion inhibitor additive (to protect it from salt exposure).

Bart's thought process regarding Greystone was that they offer the building and foundation (both of which are stamped) for \$238,000, and our budget was predicted to be \$192,000; he noted that although the amount is higher, that this would be a savings in the long run- since they do both the building and foundation, as opposed to just the building and we have to find somebody else to do the foundation.

Cathy noted that we budgeted for the road crew to maintain the roads and help with the site work for the new buildings. Eric noted that between himself, Ronnie, Glenn, and if they could find one more person, that they would be in good shape.

Bart suggested (Cathy and Eric agreed) we should not use a construction manager and that we should utilize the fact that Greystone can do everything stamped by engineers. It was said that 72'x 88' would be too small and that we should go bigger. It was mentioned that it offers a good height and reduces pricing in the long run.

Lothar questioned if we would lose overhead for the salt and sand shed by going bigger, wouldn't that be problematic; Eric suggested that we just deal with it-if it is problematic.

Eric noted that Rupert has an L-shaped divider, Bart thought that might be easier to work with, Eric said it's not worth the hassle.

Cathy questioned if we would be able to put all of the salt in the shed; Eric suggested building a ramp; Hollis wanted to know the difference in height; Cathy noted to add the height of the foundation too, Bart mentioned adding 2' (foundation height).

Cathy suggested Greystone and asked if there was any debate; Michael questioned having two buildings opposed to one; Bart mentioned that it was a package deal with anti-corrosion foundation, Eric questioned whether there would be any issues of getting the foundation product, Bart replied that there would be no foreseen issues.

Hollis mentioned that some salt companies are using different sized rigs, Eric hasn't seen smaller than 36' high when dumping.

Cathy questioned one building versus two; Gail mentioned that the town garage is more important; Bart mentioned that construction this year would not happen and that we should get information for the town garage in order to budget better for both buildings.

Lothar was in contact with Rick from Morton Building's and advised that he needed more solid options before they could give an estimate.

Theresa suggested getting names of towns where Morton Buildings were built. Cathy mentioned if they are municipal building's- the information is public; Eric stated that Rupert has a Morton Building and that they did some work themselves. Frank noted that Morton buildings built Rupert and Shaftsbury's town garages; he

gave specs and said that that was a \$1.4 million project (Shaftsbury).

Cathy suggested getting in contact with a design build contractor; Eric stated that Josselyn charges a high price for that service.

Hollis visited Shrewsbury town garage (designed by NBF), they did a stick building that was high priced with several issues; he noted that they have radiant heat in the floor that is causing mildew and they are going to try to vent the building to solve the issue

It was noted that more permits were needed, the stormwater permit for construction and operation, as well as a general construction permit-fire safety.

To do – Cathy and Gail will follow up with the engineer re: whether an amendment would be needed if there are two buildings for salt and sand

Lothar – concrete additive research

Theresa – research regarding other towns who have Morton buildings

Eric – research how other towns got around state requirements with using waste blocks

Harold – research design build contractors

Conservation Commission ~ 7/20/20

With thanks to Chuck Bronk, Sec.

Members online Doug Fontein, Jeff Ams, Nelson Jaquay, Robbie Leeds, Rainbow Squier, and Chuck Bronk

New Business:

Jo Reynolds is resigning due to health issues. Doug reviewed Jo's lifelong commitment to conservation and urged Commission members to call and thank her for her service. Doug reported one potential candidate, Ed Hasenohr. Ed will announce his willingness to serve to the Select Board. Doug agreed to put an announcement into the "Tales," but that will not be possible prior to the next Select Board meeting 7/28. All agreed that we should try to have a new member, appointed by the Select Board, in place by September.

The Commission reviewed the previous site visit to the Town Lot South of the Transfer station on 5/10/20, and discussed access to the site from the Old Creamery. This would require a walking easement through a single adjoining property. The group felt that it would be prudent to have a more concrete plan for the use of the site prior to asking the Select Board to request an easement. Jeff noted that a Frisbee Golf supplier had agreed to provide advice on the layout of a course, and that a course is currently being constructed at Lake St. Catherine. Other ideas for the use of the site included picnic tables, a community garden, and fruit trees. It was agreed that an additional site visit be scheduled and that attendees should each bring a list of possible uses. Currently logs from the clearing of the space for the salt and sand shed are being bucked-up on the site. That activity should be completed soon and the logs removed.

A planned walk of the site was set for Saturday September 19, 2020 at 9:00AM. Robbie asked if a combination of Google Maps and Town plot plans could provide more information for both the access to the site and the current conditions for planning purposes.

A concern regarding storm run-off on Wright's Road was reported to Doug. He referred the matter to Eric Buffum, Road Commissioner and Eric is dealing with the matter with help from the State.

Jeff reported that Hunter Safety courses are now largely being held online due to Covid 19 virus concerns. A single field day is included. All agreed that sponsoring a course this year was not feasible.

Doug raised the question are any changes to areas that the Commission oversees, needed due to Covid 19? Currently trails are open at the request of the Select Board and the Mountain Cabin is closed. The group agreed that it would be difficult to disinfect the cabin between uses and given that there are no locks, it is hard to track how it is used. The Cabin will continue to be closed as the laminated signage, posted by Robbie on the Kiosk and Cabin, announces.

Old Business:

Regarding the Drachman Trail, Doug reported that he had weed whacked the trail twice, but he felt we needed a work day to erect a post and sign at the trailhead, weed whack the loop and mark the loop with blazes. Jeff agreed to help along with Todd Dennis and a date was set for August 8th from 9AM-12Noon. Also regarding the Drachman Trail, Doug noted some issues with an adjoining landowner. He has a pre-existing tree stand next to the trail on the Drachman property, and makes occasional 4-wheeler use of the trail. In addition, the logger who used the trailhead as a log landing, left a number of butt ends behind. Nelson will check with the Drachman family to see if there were previous agreements regarding these matters.

Chuck provided a brief summary of Green Up activities. This year's event was not one day but spanned two weeks, 5/23/20-6/6/20. During that period there were 5 occasions when the Transfer Station was open to accept Green Up bags. Supplies and a map were set up in the Old Creamery. Gloves and bags were provided on the honor system. Participants were asked to mark the map and sign up with a phone number for a section of Town roads. This year, in addition to the 3 "Adopt a Road" participants from last year, we had 9 additional participants. We were able to cover between 60 and 70 percent of Town roads. This year we invested in a large, white board map of the Town with funds from a Community Fund Grant. Since we couldn't use last year's banner, which announced Saturday only, we made a new D.I.Y (Do It Yourself) Banner. Two critiques came in regarding this year's event. If possible, move the event to earlier in the year, to make it easier to avoid weed

growth in the roadsides, and the lack of a single day event precluded involvement of school children, which was a major part of last year's event.

Next CC meeting set for September 21, 2020 at 7:30 PM

Planning Commission ~ No meeting in July

~ Composting with Bears in Mind ~

MONTPELIER, Vt. – The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department says many people are having problems with bears looking for food near their homes, and with the new food scrap ban now in effect the department is providing tips for people who are composting at home so they can avoid attracting hungry bears.

“We have been receiving lots of reports of bears on decks, tearing down bird feeders, wrecking beehives, killing chickens, and getting into trash, compost and garbage containers,” said bear biologist Forrest Hammond. “Some folks will be new at composting food waste at home, so we are offering some guidance on how to do that without providing additional attractants for the bears.”

“First though, to deter bears, bird feeders need to be taken away until we have a foot or more of snow in December. Then, make sure anything else that might smell like food is picked up. And keep your trash container secured inside a sturdy building and don't put it outside until the morning of pickup. Beehives, chicken coops and compost bins can be protected with electric fencing.”

The best way to avoid attracting bears is to take food scraps to one of the drop-off stations. You can locate them by contacting your local solid waste management district or town at www.802recycles.com Or, ask your trash hauler if they pick up food scraps for composting.

Composting at home while minimizing the chances of attracting bears can best be done with these tips:

- Use three parts of brown material for one part of green material. Browns can be dried leaf and yard debris, wood chips, which often can be delivered to your house free by a local tree service company, or shredded paper. Greens include kitchen scraps, vegetables and small amounts of fruits. Adding lots of brown material minimizes smells and speeds up composting.
- No meat or bones. They do not break down quickly and are strong wildlife attractants. The new food scrap ban does allow people who compost at home to dispose of meat and bones in

the trash, even after July 1, so they can be kept in a freezer until trash day.

- Give your compost oxygen by frequently mixing it or turning it over if it is in a container. This reduces odors and speeds up composting.
- Does your compost smell? If so, turning it, adding more brown material and adding a layer of wood shavings or sawdust to the top should solve the issue.
- Compost in a hard, durable container with a lid that will be challenging for a bear to open. Some types of tumblers are bear-proof.
- Electric fencing, with food scent added to the wires, around your compost will discourage even persistent bears.
- If you are currently having a bear issue, delay starting your new compost pile until the bear issue resolves. Until then, keep food scraps in the freezer or bring them to a collection site.

To learn more about properly composting food waste, go to the Department of Environmental Conservation's website at www.VTrecycles.com.

The public is encouraged to contact their local warden if they are having a bear issue. You can find out who your local warden is at

<https://anrweb.vt.gov/FWD/FW/WardenLookup.aspx>.

You may also submit a black bear incident report at <https://anrweb.vt.gov/FWD/FW/WildlifeBearReport.aspx>.

Contacting your warden or submitting a black bear incident report helps wildlife officials keep track of bear issues around the state and may help shape future regulations regarding black bears.

Composting without attracting wildlife takes careful planning. For information about living with bears and to report bear damage, visit Fish & Wildlife's website www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



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