

TALES OF TINMOUTH

September 2020
Vol. 34 Number 9

Tinmouth
Vermont

Editors' Notes:

Apologies for this issue being more than a bit tardy.

If all goes well, October Tales will be along in about a week!

Many, many thanks for all recent donations and kind words of encouragement. All are appreciated!

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. Thanks.

Pat Psholka, Helen Mango & Gail Fallar, Editors

~ August Primary Election ~

51% of voters in both the Rutland-2 and Rutland-Bennington Districts cast ballots in the August Primary. 67% voted by early/absentee, thank you kindly. Rut-2 has 96 voters, 49 voted – 28 Democratic and 20 Republican. Rut-Benn has 284 voters, 146 voted – 77 Democratic and 67 Republicans.

Thank you to the election workers and for everyone's cooperation. Voting at the Old Fire House allowed one-way traffic and social distancing.

~ November 3rd General Election ~

General Election ballots will be mailed by the Vermont Secretary of State's Office to all active voters the last week of September. You can mail these to the town office (a prepaid postage envelope will be included), drop them off into the special ballot box inside the town office, or bring them with you to vote in person on November 3rd.

Voting is a right, but it's also a responsibility. Your vote is your voice, make sure you are heard!

~ Property Taxes Due September 17th ~

First half property tax payments are due on Thursday, September 17th. Please send by mail if you can, you can leave them in the drop box at the town office, or you can pay in person if you have a mask. The Town Office will be open 9-12 and 1-5.

~ Local Hazard Mitigation Planning ~

This is public notice that the Town of Tinmouth is currently engaged in hazard mitigation planning and is updating the Tinmouth, Vermont Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

For more information on the planning process or opportunities for public input, contact Steffanie Bourque at the Rutland Regional Planning Commission—sbourque@rutlandrpc.org or 802-775-0871 x206.

~ FREE Face Coverings ~

Tinmouth has received cloth face coverings (masks) to distribute to residents. Please stop by the town office to pick them up. They are washable. The town office is normally open Monday and Thursday 9-12 and 1-4:30 and most Saturday mornings. If ye olde clerk's car is there in between times, please feel free to stop in. Or call 446-2498 and we can make other arrangements. **THEY ARE FREE!**

We would like to pass these along as soon as possible. They are provided courtesy of the State of Vermont and SWANA (the Solid Waste Association of North America - they offered and we said yes).

~ From the Community Center Board ~

“Dear community members, on behalf of the Tinmouth Community Center (TCC) Board, I want to thank you for your understanding as the building remains closed at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand that the TCC is at the heart of our community and that so many of you regularly enjoy the space for meals, sports, and other social gatherings. The thoughtful decision to close the TCC through the months of September and October was not an easy one and we know the disappointment that this decision may cause you.

The reasons for this decision included state and federal guidelines, available epidemiology data, and the demographic of our community members. We considered the impact that an outbreak may have on the Tinmouth community and decided the risk for losing a neighbor was greater than the temporary inconvenience of closing the TCC.

The board will continue to meet monthly to evaluate the opportunity to reopen the TCC as soon as possible. In the meantime, you may contact any of the board members with questions or concerns.”

Sincerely,

Amy Martone, CCB Member

~ No Game Supper in November ~

The Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department has cancelled 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.

Please Recycle or Pass Along Tales!!

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

Fire Dept.	Thursday	3rd	6:30	Fire House - Outside
Labor Day	Monday	7th		Town Office will be CLOSED.
1st Day of School	Tuesday	8th		Remote Learning until further notice.
Select Board	Thursday	10th	7:00	Teleconference
Building Committee	Monday	14th	7:00	Teleconference
1st Half Property Taxes	Thursday	17th	4:00	Town Office
Select Board – Special Meeting	Thursday	17th	5:30	Teleconference
Tales of Tinmouth Deadline	Sunday	20th		Don't Miss It!
Conservation Commission	Monday	20th	7:30	Teleconference
Select Board	Tuesday	22nd	7:00	Teleconference
Building Committee	Monday	28th	7:00	Teleconference

~ October 2020 Calendar of Events ~

Fire Dept.	Thursday	1st	6:30	Fire House -Outside
Select Board	Thursday	8th	7:00	Teleconference
Tales of Tinmouth Deadline	Tuesday	20th		Don't Miss It!
Select Board	Tuesday	27th	7:00	Teleconference
Planning Commission	No Meeting Scheduled at this time.			

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.

~ **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. Data gathering will end soon.

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://mycensus2020.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 be advised that the Census Bureau also has workers visiting folks who filed online or mailed in their form to verify the information. Your cooperation with them is appreciated. They are local folks doing an important job.

~ **Nature Notes** ~

Bears, bears and more bears. Big ones, Fred Aines reports one the size of a full grown polar bear on his lawn, Rod Start had one ripping trim off the side of the house to get to a bee hive, several folks have seen middle sized ones running in the road, looking first like a big dog, and cubs have also been reported. They have also started eating cow corn.

An eagle and a couple of young ones were seen soaring overhead during the Church's outdoor service on 9/13!

~ **Button Up Vermont** ~

By Todd Dennis

When you weatherize your home, you're making an investment that will pay off in comfort and savings for years to come. <https://buttonupvermont.org> is full of resources to aid you in weatherizing your home from videos on DIY projects to weekly Weatherization Wednesday webinars (Registration required) on topics such as:

- Weatherization and Where to Start (9/7) [<https://buttonupvermont.org/event/its-time-button-up-win-nest-thermostat>] Yes, you could win a Nest Thermostat just by joining this virtual presentation.
- Residential Weatherization 101: Where Do I Start? How Do I Decide Which Project to Do Next? (9/22) [<https://buttonupvermont.org/event/residential-weatherization-101-where-do-i-start-how-do-i-decide-which-project-do-next>]

Most Vermonters save hundreds of dollars each year after a full home weatherization project, putting money in your pocket that you can use to support local businesses. There are even low interest loans to help get you on your way, [<https://www.encyvermont.com/services/financing/homes/home-energy-loan>], act quickly as this program has a special incentive thru October.

Learn more at <https://ButtonUpVermont.org>



TINMOUTH
CHURCH

~ Tinmouth Community Church ~

I was taught to honor my word. If I said I was going to do something, I was to do it, unless on second thought, I had reservations, in which case I was to go back to that person and reconsider the matter. My word to you and your word to me was a matter of integrity and mutual respect, not to be taken lightly, much less deceitfully. No contract was necessary. Our word and a handshake would suffice. How naive. But if both parties were honorable persons, it usually worked out fine. Mayberry was a nice place to live.

But one day the sewer got backed up. There was only one word to describe it, but I was taught never to use such words. But more and more, those were the kinds of words I was hearing as a matter of common speech, until, it seemed, it hardly bothered anyone but me. Words were losing their sanctity. Or was it my innocence? Some words that I would never use, nevertheless had a pungency that got attention, but often in a contentious, mean-spirited, even hostile manner. Dignity, respect, and even civility, were getting sacrificed on the altar of undisciplined ego. Where was the cultivation of language? Where was the cultivation of character?

Words - they can clarify or obfuscate, express truth or deceive, nurture or diminish, encourage or deflate, inspire or shut-down, express empathy or disinterest, create hope or instill fear. Taking someone at their word has become, perhaps always was, risky business. Even contracts and oaths of office can be worthless.

“Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks,” said the Voice of Truth. Character matters. Values matter. Speech matters. And it is a matter of blessing or curse, life or death, even that of a nation’s democracy.

Pastor John

Sunday Services online at www.tinmouthchurch.org
Evening Prayer, Tuesdays and Thursdays, on Tinmouth Community Church Facebook page

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

~ Library News ~

By Ruth Drachman, Librarian

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

Meanwhile, the librarian stops in for a bit on most Thursdays to check on things, re-shelve the books you have returned, and breathe the air of a roomful of books.

She is buying new books and you will find them on the counter for self-serve, meaning you call the town office (446-2498) to arrange to have the back door unlocked so you may enter. Just remember to fill out the sign-in-out sheet for her so she will know what you have. OR you can call her to arrange some other way of getting books.

New books for adults:

* **Riviera Gold** by Laurie King, another story featuring Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes.

* **All the Devils are Here** by Louise Penny, a further episode with Chief Inspector Armand Gamache.

* **Universe of Two** by Stephen Kiernan, the fictionalized account of the brilliant mathematician, Charlie Fisk, who was drafted into The Manhattan Project and ordered against his morals to build a detonator for the atomic bomb.

* **How the Penguins Saved Veronica** by Hazel Prior, “A curmudgeonly but charming old woman, her estranged grandson, and a colony of penguins proves it's never too late to be the person you want to be in this rich, heartwarming story.....”

* **Big Little Lies** by Liane Moriarty, funny and thrilling, as well as page turning, but with emotional depth.

* **Little Fires Everywhere** by Celeste Ng, Named a best book of the year by a number of organizations and people, called extraordinary by many, explores the weight of secrets, and the ferocious pull of motherhood. Keep reading!

~ Community News ~

Get Well Wishes are sent to **Connie Edmunds, James R. Edmunds, Bob Johnson, and Tom French.**

Heartfelt sympathies are sent to family and friends of **Pat “Santa Claus” Young** and to family and friends of **Cynthia Johnson.** They will be missed.

Welcome to Tinmouth’s newest resident, **Riley James Babin**, who was born on August 14th, son of **Darren Babin** and **Terri Bitler.** He joins big brother **Jameson.** Congratulations and best wishes to all.



August 28, 2020

To the Tinmouth School Community,

The countdown to the start of school on September 8th has begun. Important dates and times are outlined below including when to pick up computers, materials, and lunches. Class Orientation Schedules are outlined as well.

School Lunches

School breakfast and lunch is available for all children. There is no charge if children qualify on the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. We anticipate that due to the current pandemic and decline in family employment hours, more children will qualify for this program. Attached to this email are applications and instructions. Please complete the 2 page application and send it to the school at 573 Route 140, Tinmouth, VT 05773. Children not qualifying under the program will be charge \$3.05 for lunch and \$1.75 for breakfast for meals ordered. Pick up for breakfast and lunches will be Mondays and Thursdays from 8:00 am until 2:00 PM. There will be a table on these days at the double doors to the community center where you can pick up meals. Attached to this email is an order form. This will allow us to have your meals ready to go and insure there is minimal food waste. Please help out our food manager, Jess, by ordering your meals a week ahead.

Computer and Supplies Pick-up

There will be a table outside by the front door of the school with computers and supplies available for pick-up on Thursday and Friday, September 3rd and 4th, from 8:00 am to 4:00 PM. If you drive up to the front steps, we will hand you your materials. You can turn in any applications, food orders, or registration forms at that time. Please wear a mask out of consideration for our staffs' health.

Meet and Greet Schedule

We will be doing virtual Meet and Greets. The following is the class schedule with dates and times:

Class	Teacher	Date	Time
PreK 3 & 4	Ms. Edge	Wednesday, 9/2	5:30 PM
K/1	Ms. Davis	Thursday, 9/3	4:30-5:00 PM
2/3	Ms. Wurzburg	Thursday, 9/3	5:00-5:30 PM

4	Ms. Galusha	Thursday, 9/3	6-6:30 PM
5/6	Ms. Tiftt	Thursday, 9/3	7-7:30 PM

Teachers will send each family a link to join the online meeting. You can use a computer or phone to join the Meet and Greet,

Getting onto Google Classroom and Seesaw

Children, parents, and children are learning how to navigate learning platforms including Google Classroom and SeeSaw. The following links provide guidance on how to access your Google classroom or SeeSaw classroom.

For how to sign into Google classroom:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKTUz-23xcw>

For how to sign into Seesaw Classroom:
https://www.google.com/search?q=youtube+how+to+sign+onto+seesaw+classroom+classroom&oq=youtube+how+to+sign+onto+seesaw+classroom+classroom&aqs=chrome..69j57.35617j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx=_x0NJX57YBKrH_QaHnZXQBA33

There will be glitches at the start of the year but these programs are pretty intuitive. Lessons will be recorded and posted although the live explanation and discussion will not be, due to confidentiality concerns. Additionally, teachers have office hours twice weekly for questions and concerns.

We'll see you Thursday for computer and material pick-up!

Have a safe and healthy weekend!

*Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker
Principal
Tinmouth Mountain School*

**~ 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.

~ Meeting Highlights~

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

All meetings are virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Select Board ~ 8/13/20

Present were members Michael Fallar, Cathy Reynolds, and Frank Sears (@7:36, as well as Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Hollis Squier, Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Heather McMahon, Barbara Noyes-Pulling – Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC), Grant Reynolds, Michael Fannin-Emergency Management Director (@8:00, Doug Fontein (@ 8:45 for the Conservation Commission, and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant (SBA).

Michael Fallar called the meeting to order at 7:00 and welcomed everyone. Board reviewed agenda, moved Barbara to the top.

RRPC ~ Barbara updated Board on work done with grants from the Vermont Community foundation to RRPC and the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resource Conservation District, to address environmental issues including flood resilience, in the Flower Brook Watershed (headwaters begin in southwestern Tinmouth). More concern for issues in Danby and Pawlet along Flower Brook. The State wants more attention paid to reducing phosphorus, including in the Tinmouth Pond Lake Shore District. RRPC and PMNRCD are now addressing climate resilience as well. Planning is underway, need to determine the effect on natural resources, find new ideas. Barbara would like to have someone from Tinmouth join the Flower Brook Advisory Group – perhaps someone from the Conservation Commission, Energy Committee, or Planning Commission – will meet in September and/or October. Michael advised he will discuss it with the Tinmouth Planning Commission.

~ Highway ~

Eric Buffum reported ditching on Wright’s Road is nearly done; there was some wind damage in the last storm – nothing serious.

Highway Time Sheets ~ Board discussed need to increase detail, SBA advised she is working on revisions.

Old One Ton Truck Sale ~ Cathy advised there was one proposal for \$18,000, who would be willing to go to \$20,000 at the most. Truck needs seat covers, Board authorized Eric to get them to help with the sale. Process is problematic – needs to be re-thought. Board discussed selling at auction or by consignment – Frank arrived at this point and moved to sell it for the \$20,000. No second, motion died for lack thereof. Board then voted to authorize Cathy to take it to Riverside Motors (Mark Teetor) in Poultney for an evaluation and possibly sell by consignment (fee of \$750) if he feels it is worth more than \$20,750.

Stumps ~ Differing opinions from the Solid Waste District and Otter Creek Engineering (can’t bury them as

the seasonal highwater table is too high). Eric noted Dan Allard will knock the dirt out and pile them. There are more trees to cut so there will be more brush to burn as well, so the stumps may end up there. Construction will not happen until next year anyways.

Channel Road ~ Frank advised he had not had any further contact with VTEL, Hollis volunteered to deal with it. Board agreed.

Wright’s Road Plan ~ Eric advised he is still waiting for Josh Carvajal’s advice, it is better than it was. Still needs a cross culvert south of the current one.

North End Road Culvert ~ Michael inquired whether the second culvert near Potter’s Brook would be installed this year. Eric advised he hopes so.

Storm Water Permit Update ~ SBA advised that the state has issued a 14 day comment period notice, still waiting.

Municipal Road Aide Grant ~ Board discussed applying for a grant for a roller compactor, grant is for \$7,500. Eric will research cost of compactor – may be able to build one. Frank moved to authorize letter of intent for the grant for a roller compactor, Cathy 2nded. Cathy and Frank voted in favor, Michael abstained. Motion carried.

~ COVID-19 Emergency Update ~ Michael Fannin, EMD, advised members are needed for the **LHMP (Local Hazard Mitigation Plan) Committee** – fire department, road crew, EMD/EMC, select board, planning commission, community member? Plan is to hold the meeting in the old fire house – maximum of 8 people. Board discussed who appoints, RRPC wants to hold meeting ASAP. After discussion, Board voted to authorize the EMD to form the committee and proceed with the planning.

Michael, EMD, advised the RRPC is working on contacting other EMD’s regarding the volunteer waiver.

Sherry inquired about masks being provided by the state for local town’s people. SBA advised they had been ordered and were on their way.

Building Committee Report ~ Cathy reported a proposal from Greystone was \$237,000 soup to nuts, Rutland County’s Division of Fire and Safety requires stamped engineering. She will talk with Stan Wilbur about Proctor’s salt shed construction. BC has decided this year’s construction season has passed, will wait until spring. Michael inquired about using both ends of the salt/sand shed for access. That might require amending the state permit.

Financial Reports ~ SBA reported they were not yet ready. Board discussed then approved the proposal from Sullivan and Powers for the audit and authorized Michael to sign on behalf of the Board.

Gail reported the audit had started, P&S staff were at the office on the 7th gathering information.

Warrants Reviewed ~ Board voted to approve payroll warrants #5 for \$1,878.51 dated 8/3/20 and #6 for \$2,600.34 dated 8/10/20.

~ **Old Business** ~

Trash and Dogs at 605 Mountain View – Frank reported no more done, SBA advised that rats have been seen on the property – Frank will set a deadline for clean-up, and prepare paperwork for the County Sheriff to deliver.

12 Ezra Stone Road – Neighbors have reported that a bear is making a mess of the trash that is still there. Frank advised he will make a visit.

Bears ~ Bear reports are growing, need to advise folks to keep garbage secure.

~ **New Business** ~

2020 Town Tax Rates ~ After brief discussion, Board voted to set the town tax rate at \$0.7355 and the local agreement tax rate at \$0.0016. It is slightly less than 2019. Gail advised that the Grand List is not yet final, Grievance hearings will be on the 27th, but does not see any big changes.

Unlicensed Dog Warrant ~ Frank presented a kinder, gentler version, Board approved and agreed to sign.

Conservation Commission ~ Board voted to appoint Ed Hasenohr to the Conservation Commission to fill the vacancy created by Jo Reynolds' retiring. Board wishes to thank Jo for her many years of service on the CC.

Open Mountain Cabin ~ Board discussed concern of the Conservation Commission about the SB allowing use of the Town's Mountain Cabin. The CC felt there was no way of knowing who was there, cleaning, how many would be using it at once, etc. SB acknowledged concern, but felt there was minimum risk – and added signage for protocols for use. SB and CC need to communicate better in the future. SB asked the CC to post the new signs.

Census ~ Board reviewed data from Vermont census staff indicating that Tinmouth folks are not filling out the census forms, Board needs to encourage everyone to participate in the census. Still only at 39%. Frank advised he is now a census worker and has a 20 mile work radius.

Digitization of Land Records ~ Gail advised the state is providing grants to help towns move to getting land records digitized so they can be searched remotely. She will research further, deadline is Sept 1st. Work has to be done by November 1st.

Wallingford Town Line ~ Gail advised, on the advice of Jim Carroll, Esq., that the Tinmouth Listers removed the Taylors house from the Tinmouth Grand List for 2020. Wallingford continues to claim it is located in Wallingford, but uses the current property maps for all the other owners with land in both towns. Property maps clearly show the house is west of the assumed town line. Research will continue from this end as Wallingford refused to even form a committee to work on a process to determine the location of the line.

Select Board ~ 8/25/20

Present were Michael Fallar, Cathy Reynolds, and Frank Sears, as well as Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Grant Reynolds, Howard and Deb Buffum, and Gail Fallar – SBA.

~ **Highway** ~

Eric reported work on Wright's Road is nearly done, needs to be graded and there are a couple of places where the ledge should be blasted - he will get estimate from Dan Allard. Beavers are trying to build a dam in the big culvert on Channel Road, it has been pulled apart a couple of times. He advised decals for the new 550 will cost \$200 – he will put them on, Board agreed by consensus.

Maple Brook Lane ~ Eric reported the old asphalt on private property is crumbling, there is some water run-off adding to the problem. He asked the Board to take a look before town takes any action. Frank volunteered to check it out.

Michael inquired about written maintenance records for the vehicles/equipment, Eric advised they are at the town garage.

Old One Ton Truck ~ Board discussed offer from Lou Wescott for \$20,000. Cathy reported Riverside Motors declined to sell the truck on consignment, recommended taking the offer. After discussion involving the process, value of the truck, and the need to have it inspected, Board voted to sell the 2013 one ton 350, as is, where is, for \$20,000 to Mr. Wescott.

Channel Road ~ Hollis sends word that he is working with the contractor hired by VTel to correct the situation.

New Tandem Truck Specs ~ Eric briefly reviewed proposals from Clark Truck Center, advising that if a truck is ordered it will most likely take a year to be built and delivered. Clark's have some that will be available this fall, one will need to change the plow (+\$3,700), the other change to the candy cane hitch (\$10,000). Board wanted time to review, moved the discussion to the Board's September 10th meeting.

Building Committee Report ~ Michael advised the BC is still hashing over a number of items, have settled on a fabric cover, working on waste block information – has to be engineered, and started discussing the town garage.

Others ~ Frank, as Health Officer, explained the email he sent to the Board regarding trash at 72 Snow Mountain Lane. He has given the tenants a deadline of 8/31/20 to remove all the solid waste – it is front to back, ground to ceiling, some is decomposing, situation is getting worse. Next steps will include tickets and fines if the property is not cleaned up. Howard and Deb are the landlords, they thanked the town for its assistance.

Financial Reports ~ No written financial reports were provided, Gail advised they will be coming soon – end of the year wrap-up revealed that several tax payers had overpaid, they need refunds issued. Payroll warrants #7

for \$1,409.92, dated 8/17/20 and #8 for \$2,668.58 dated 8/24/20 and accounts payable warrant #2 for \$87,825.91 dated 8/19/20 were approved by the Board.

~ **Old Business** ~

Trash and Dogs at 605 Mountain View – Frank updated Board on a recent visit – more trash is evident, between the house and garage and piled against the fence. He is ready to have the county sheriff deliver notice of violation of the Solid Waste Ordinance. After discussion, Board agreed to proceed, it has gone on long enough. Dogs are also still unlicensed.

12 Ezra Stone Road – Frank drove by, appears to be cleaned up, dumpster is there.

Census – Frank reporting he is a census worker in the area. Gail noted some folks are reporting more than one contact from the Census Bureau. Some census workers job is checking to make sure the information received is complete and correct.

~ **New Business** ~

Late Filed Homestead Declaration Fee ~ Board voted to waive fees for late filed homesteads. Standard procedure in past years.

Covid-19 Building Use Guidelines ~ After brief discussion, Frank moved to approve as written, Cathy 2nded. Frank and Cathy voted in favor, Michael voted no. Motion passed.

Community Center Board ~ Cathy reported the Community Center Board had meet recently and decided to continue to not re-open the community center to the public – will reconsider in October. The School may need to use the community center for classes to ensure social distancing, their sanitizing requirements may also affect use of the community center by the public.

Facial Coverings/Masks ~ Gail reported the state had sent a bunch to be distributed to town folks – Board discussed how this would be done – article on Front Porch Forum, in *Tales of Tinmouth* and on the sign board outside the town office. Pick-up at the town office, there is no charge. They are washable, small and medium sizes.

Building Committee ~ 8/3/20 ~ Virtual Meeting

With thanks to Theresa Butts, Co-Chair

Present were members Theresa Butts, Harold Hunter, Michael Fallar, Hollis Squier, Cathy Reynolds, David Birdsall, Ronnie Crossman, Bart Eaton, and Lothar Schmelzenbach, as well as Gail Fallar, Sherry Johnson and Kim Harbaugh.

~ **Salt/Sand Shed** ~

Cathy gave David a quick overview of the last building committee meeting. She also noted that the waste blocks don't meet fire/safety standards as they need to be designed and stamped by an engineer. Michael noted that engineered waste blocks are cheaper than a poured foundation, Cathy asked who engineered Proctor's-Michael will speak with Stan Wilbur again.

No additional site visits for the salt and sand sheds were done.

David reported on a conversation he had with someone from Addison; they have a 73' x 100' ClearSpan building, 20' x 100' of that is for cold storage equipment, the rest is for sand storage. "They would do without a garage before they would go without a sand shed." They used 6' of waste block, 8' of metal pipe, and then the hoop; they used 12 foot fabric sections, you can replace the sections without having to replace the whole cover if a tear happens. They have an 18' x 20' doorway, would need 22' to drive through. They have a big problem with birds-having no actual door; they recommend having an enclosed structure. He also mentioned their garage has no radiant heat; that he's talked to other towns and they hate it. He has contacted John Bolt from Ferrisburgh, who has radiant heat but he hasn't heard back from them.

Cathy asked what their (Addison) process was like, who designed it? David said they'd saved up and stored products to build, so they didn't need a designer, they used waste blocks. How long ago? David said it took them time to save up the product (years). David also mentioned that they paved the floor with asphalt after the blocks were in place, and had an issue with water coming through the cracks. So they have tried tarring it. Cathy noted that Addison poured the pad too soon (before the waste blocks were placed). David said that there was a problem with the cracks in the waste blocks and the water was leaking into the building; Bart mentions that they probably did it before permitting became a requirement, David said that it cost far less than \$175,000, but that they as a town did a lot of the work (Addison).

Harold asked if the Building Committee had settled on a sand and salt shed size? Cathy said that we have not yet, Eric figured up the size and we looked at height, Greystone seems to be better but the Clear Span is less money. We have not given the Select Board a recommendation yet. Poultney has a metal building and has trouble with condensation. Hollis said the condensation is sometimes making the sand wet again.

Harold asked if it was necessary to store all the salt and sand needed for the year, and were the designs correctly sized? Bart reiterated that the vendors' proposals would fit our needs – 600 tons of salt, 1600 cubic yards of sand. Hollis noted that we would have to push the product in, Bart mentioned that height is an issue. David said one hoop was 41' high. Cathy noted that Greystone is more money and that Clear Span would require a designer.

Cathy asked if there were other conversations with other towns by other members? Crickets were heard chirping, David asked if we should continue researching other towns? Yes.

Members discussed emails from Craig Jewett (Otter Creek Eng.) regarding clarification of "same general

location” if there were two buildings. The permit should be pulled before it is issued if there is a change to be made.

Should the BC pursue one building or two? Most group members verbalized “one.” Harold noted that two buildings worked well, Wallingford used a structure storing some product inside and some outside, and used the outside product first. Cathy mentioned that we are trying to move away from outside storage. Hollis said that Wallingford has to push the product a long way. Harold wondered if it works for them maybe it'd work for us? David said it works for them, but it has to because that's what they have. Hollis suggested that Wallingford would probably do it differently if they had another opportunity. Cathy asked again if we could agree on one building versus two? David, Hollis, Bart, Theresa, Lothar, Harold, Cathy, Ronnie all were in favor of one Building, Michael abstained. Harold mentioned that Guilford drives up their piles (salt/sand) and that it compacts too tightly and makes it harder to use; he suggested maybe using a conveyor belt. Bart asked if they had good circulation in Guilford. Harold said the front was open and they had no condensation issues.

Lothar was asked about concrete additives/corrosion inhibitors. He advised the email explained it perfectly (from Bart/from GreyStone).

Cathy asked if we use waste blocks, do the waste blocks need additives? Lothar suggested it might be like a plastic additive, similar to what's used in cement repairs. Bart spoke to a rep from GreyStone about local products with additives; Greystone said it's specific and wouldn't go local, probably would ship in product. Lothar will call Carrara and Daley, local concrete companies, to inquire whether they use or recommend using it.

Cathy asked if there was anything else on the sand and salt shed. Hearing crickets again, we moved on.

~ Town Garage ~

Cathy asked Lothar about the Morton Buildings quote; Bart took back his “snarky remark” from the last meeting, saying he spoke too soon. Lothar said that he sent Morton the Russell's quote/specs and that Morton's quote is self-explanatory, he did note that there were some differences in specs and that the quote is good for 30 days max. Bart asked if the subcontracts were included in the price, Lothar said yes, that's how he read it, but would double check. Cathy noted that the insulation specs are changing September 1, 2020 and they need to be kept up-to-date.

Bart compared the Russell and Morton quotes, and stated that Morton looks more reasonable cost-wise and on savings in the long run. Cathy clarified that the Russell quote was really an estimation - the town hired NBF, NBF created the specs, and Russell did a cost estimate to enable the town to go to a bond vote. If we went with Morton do they supply stamped engineered drawings? Michael suggested placing the doors on gable ends.

Cathy brought up the bidding process, need to determine how it will work (is this for the BC or SB?)

Harold suggested that we should have no more than three bidding against each other, it was noted that Pittsford was taking bids by pre-qualified bidders for their salt/sand shed project. Bart stated he furnished info earlier about a firm, dealing with states and municipalities and prequalified bidders.

Cathy asked Theresa about the list of local Morton Buildings. Theresa mentioned that she is going to Shaftsbury for a site visit with Hollis. Cathy suggested asking the questions: How did their process work? Did they use an architect? Would they have used a different process? Did they use pre-qualified bidders? Did they hire people to help them? How did they end up with a Morton building? Bart suggested asking: What do you like? Dislike? What would you do differently? Pricing? When was it built? Any grants that were used to help fund the building? Cathy asked if there were any other local Morton buildings that are being used for town garages? Theresa verified and added Sandgate, Vt. to the list of buildings to visit. Cathy asked if any other Morton's were worth looking at, asked for volunteers and suggested that she could ask a friend in Wilmington to assist. There were no other Morton Buildings follow ups.

Cathy asked if there were any other comments/questions about the Mendon documents from 2016 included in the packet, hearing crickets and then a choir of no's, she asked if there was any other business members would like to discuss?

Bart wanted to discuss finances, as we have not done so thus far. The cost estimates from the first building committee and select board meeting at the end of May, were to stay within \$850,000. Taking figures that we have gotten this far, the sand and salt shed was supposed to be \$192,000, Greystone came in at \$238,000 plus \$57,500 for paving, permits, electric, etc. equaling to \$295,095 total. Otter Creek site work estimate was \$179,000 (seems high, and potentially inaccurate), the town garage estimate from Morton buildings was \$423,000, legal/etc. and the audit cost \$33,000 bringing our final total to \$930,000, that is above the \$850,000 original budget, but still within reason.

We are almost to the point to give recommendations to the Select Board.

Numerous “Thank-you's” from members to Bart.

Cathy asked if there were any questions.

Hollis noted that the electricity in the sand and salt shed is not really needed because the vehicles have lights, so that might be a savings.

Lothar said that the Morton quote has four bays and suggested that maybe three would cost significantly less, he said he would talk to Rick from Morton buildings this week. Bart stated that we've accomplished the dream of four bays and is within our budget and it will last for

decades. Cathy asked if we could work with Morton buildings to get the most building for our budget. Harold stated that we could always do an add-on in the future. Cathy noted that we can store extra vehicles in the old town garage. Bart and Cathy agreed that we need four bays and we can fill them easily. Hollis noted that we should keep the grader in a heated space in the winter-if possible, for longevity.

Bart asked if it was possible to not go out to bid, that the BC get proposals and then go to the Select Board with recommendations? Does the SB need to go out to bid? Cathy and Michael advised that the SB indeed needs to go through a bidding process. Hollis said that the SB could refuse any and all bids. Bart stated that the SB doesn't always go with the best bid. Cathy noted that there was still a lot of questions for the SB; How can we get a contractor? Protect the town's best interest? Design/build? SB is not expert at municipal construction/bids, looking for help with the process. Members were instructed to read the Mendon information in the packet before the next meeting.

Harold will check on Design/Build contractors, Theresa and Hollis will visit Shaftsbury, Lothar will call concrete companies,

Building Committee ~ 8/17/20 ~ Virtual Meeting

With thanks to Theresa Butts, Co-Chair

Members present were Michael Fallar, Eric Buffum, Bart Eaton, David Birdsall, Theresa Butts, Hollis Squier, Lothar Schmelzenbach, Cathy Reynolds, and Ronnie Crossman, as well as Gail Fallar, Sherry Johnson and Kim Harbaugh.

Minutes from 08/03/2020 were reviewed and approved as written. Bart congratulated Theresa for the most complete minutes he'd seen.

~ Salt/Sand Shed Updates ~

David reported on his discussion with Ferrisburg (a bigger town) and noted that they have a 60' x 120' steel, six bay garage with radiant flooring that they like but it needs lots of ventilation/circulation. Has a shed type roof so the snow from the roof does not block the doors.

He added that Starksboro has a new building and it might be a good model to follow. The overhead doors follow the pitch of the roof when they are opened, they're not horizontal. He noted that the sand and salt shed had 6 feet of waste blocks (that are not engineered) 60' x 200' that holds 4000 cubic yards of sand plus 800 tons of salt. It was built by ClearSpan - fabric roof in 12 foot sections, makes it easier to repair if there is a tear. They advised that if they were to do it again, they would add pipe on top of the block to make it higher before the arch was attached to make more room for the trucks to maneuver.

Theresa asked David to type up his findings for the next meeting, he agreed.

Lothar advised that he spoke with Carrara and Daley (concrete businesses) about the additives/inhibitors. They are aware but do not do use them for liability reasons, they use a denser concrete. They also advised against using a concrete floor with salt.

Michael advised he forgot about further research on engineered waste blocks.

Bart advised that he spoke with Stan Wilbur. The Town of Proctor salt/sand shed is a ClearSpan structure and they did use engineered blocks, \$4,500 cost for design and stamped drawings. They paved the whole surface and added 8 inches of asphalt under the blocks. Engineered versus waste block- may be more than three times the cost. When put out to bid, the engineered blocks were cheaper from SD Ireland, whose facility is farther away.

Bart prepared a comparison chart- attached to handouts, no comments, pretty straightforward.

~ Town Garage Updates ~

Lothar reported on his discussion with Rick from Morton Buildings. He says they are aware of the new insulation specifications and will talk with him again soon. Cathy has new code-related questions for Lothar to ask Rick. Hollis wants assurances that they can meet the new codes. Cathy wants Lothar to ask Rick if they are stamped drawings or if an architect required. Lothar agreed.

Theresa and Hollis were unable to visit Shaftsbury and Sandgate.

David and Cathy will try to visit Starksboro and Ferrisburg before the next BC meeting. They were asked to take pictures of their visit. Others were requested to take pictures of their visits too.

Referring to the comparison chart, Cathy reiterated that there are two viable options for the salt and sand shed. Either of ClearSpan's - 85' x 100' or 85' x 120' or Greystone's 72' x 88' -(cost more but includes more). She asked if the BC is ready to make a recommendation to the Select Board to go out to bid for two different types?

Michael suggested that the BC needs more information regarding the ClearSpan package - costs of the foundation, interior barrier, etc. to be able to compare costs between ClearSpan and Greystone - apples to apples.

It was noted that someone needs to gather the information - there are several sources - and compile/collate the results - no one volunteered. Is there a need for a clerk of the works? Who is going to write the specs?

Bart stated that none of us were experts and that maybe Stan could be helpful? He also suggested trying to get a grant for a qualified building.

Gail noted that Pittsford has prequalified vendors for their new salt and sand shed, and that Otter Creek Engineering is handling the bid stuff for them, according to their recent request for bids ad in the Rutland Herald.

Bart brought up electrical – perhaps it could be done in future years – and as Hollis said at the last meeting - trucks have lights. It was noted that the original budget for electrical was \$5,000. Michael stated that it could be way more than that, maybe having an electrician take a look and give an estimate would be beneficial.

Bart would like to see others put in more effort. Cathy brought up SD Ireland-engineered blocks, Bart will call SD Ireland for a comparison with Proctor, Lothar will call others.

Michael shared a member’s concern: wondering if both ends of the building could be accessed, sand on one side and salt on the other, noting that it is food for thought.

Eric responded that when he suggested that to the engineer, he was advised that it would create too much impervious surface, would require need more drainage, a collection pond, etc, and at this point we would need to amend the permit. Cathy noted that if we are changing (plans), we should change now. Eric advised it will work the way it is, that Mendon and Rupert only have one end open. Hollis expressed concern with wind blowing through if it was open on both ends.

To Do –

- David and Cathy will visit Ferrisburg and Starksboro
- Lothar and Cathy will question Morton Buildings
- Lothar or Bart will contact S.D. Ireland about engineered blocks
- Theresa and Hollis will visit Shaftsbury and Sandgate

Building Committee 8/31/20 ~ Virtual Meeting

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

~ Salt/Sand Shed ~

David and Cathy were unable to visit Ferrisburg and Starksboro.

Theresa and Hollis visited Shaftsbury and Sandgate. Theresa reviewed her written notes and photos emailed this afternoon. (Attached to minutes on file at the office.) It took Shaftsbury many years to save and a number of bond votes before they were able go forward. Their town administrator did most of the work, all construction work was contracted as they have 78 miles of roads to maintain.

Members discussed whether or not to apply for a state grant – opportunity presented itself today – Cathy was doubtful it would be approved as there is no pollution into a waterway – and no salt sheds grants were approved last year in that program.

Members discussed concluding research on salt/sand sheds and sending the information to the Select Board. Some members felt the BC should keep the information, pending the need to adjust size if there will not be enough money for the right-sized garage. Which is more important, the garage or salt/sand shed? Do one right or both half way? Ask voters for more money? Spend the amount voted \$850,000 *and* the money in the Building Fund? Gail advised that the Select Board had assured voters that would not happen, that the bond attorney advised to show the total amount to be spent - \$850,000 – and the SB’s town meeting information indicated that the town would only be borrowing around \$365,000.

Eric advised he’d called ClearSpan and they suggested building 30” x 30” pillars on footings to hold the roof and using waste blocks as interior walls. Waste blocks cost around \$65 each, engineered blocks (required for block foundation) the cost is \$365 each. The State’s Fire and Safety Department would have to be consulted for approval regarding the pillars. They require engineered blocks if used as the foundation. Bart noted that ClearSpan is good at answering questions, but not good on details. He felt the Greystone proposal was better as it included the whole deal – ClearSpan would require more management issues. It was noted that Greystone does not currently have any structures in New England, Bart advised they are looking to expand this way, so it was suggested that they be asked if they would like to build a structure for Tinmouth to be a model – Bart will inquire.

Bart moved to send all three proposals (2 from ClearSpan and 1 from Greystone) to the Select Board for their consideration. Cathy 2nded. Michael felt the BC still needed to do a bit more research on the salt/sand shed project, thanked Bart for all the work he had done, would like to work on the garage and then send all the information to the SB. Bart noted the SB doesn’t have to take any action at this time. After more discussion, a roll call was taken (required with virtual meetings if all are not in agreement), voting **yes** were Bart, Eric, Lothar, Cathy and Hollis (reluctantly), voting **no** were Michael, Theresa and Harold. Motion passed – a quorum of those present.

Members then discussed who would present the information to the Select Board. Bart suggested the SB members on the BC should be able to take care of it, Cathy and Michael advised it should be someone else from the BC. After a bit of arm twisting, Bart agreed.

~ Town Garage ~

Members discussed construction companies wanting final plans before providing estimates; whether NBF (architect) should be hired to develop bid specs; whether to go with Morton Buildings (will they provided stamped engineered plans?); consider design-build; and should the town be the general contractor?

Harold noted there are too many tangents, it's too confusing for members. He offered to talk with design-build contractors if he had specs to give them. Three companies were suggested – Wright Construction, Josselyn Brothers in Cuttingsville, and Burns in Ludlow.

Eric explained that design-build involves an owner working with a project manager - a hired architect/engineer/etc. and then the building is built by that company.

Hollis and Theresa reported on their visit to the Shaftsbury town garage – built last year after 10 years working to get bond approval. Sandgate's was 20 years old. Hollis noted that the electrical lines were in conduit on the walls, they advised specifying that the wiring be run inside the walls; they have a wash bay, ceiling height is 18', four doors, several little rooms they would re-configure – locker room, utility room, office, bathroom, break room, storage room.

Next meeting? After brief discussion it was determined that once a month would stretch out the process too far, bids should be going out in February, so twice a month is necessary. Next meetings were set for September 14th and 28th.

Community Center Board ~ 8/18/20

Virtually present were members Amy Martone (school board), Ann Czar (elected), and Cathy Reynolds (select board rep), as well as Rainbow Squier – CC Building Manager, Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker - Principal, and Gail Fallar-Treasurer.

The meeting was called to discuss re-opening the community center for public use and to adopt building use guidelines. Cathy had a draft prepared, recently adopted by the Select Board for use of town buildings. These were reviewed, members discussed school guidelines as well. Cleaning protocols were discussed, who cleaned, who provided cleaning supplies, etc.

Maureen mentioned that the school may need to use the community center for classrooms to maintain social distancing when in-person school resumes. The Board acknowledged the importance of supporting the school and noted it is a priority. Gail reminded everyone that the Community Center Board should be consulted if the school needs to use the community center in a long-term manner – the town is supposed to be able to use it whenever school is not in session and after 5:30 each school day. That may not be possible if the gym is set up as class rooms.

After more discussion, the TCC Board agreed by consensus to keep the community center closed to the public through September and October. Will reconsider again in November.

Planning Commission ~ No meeting in August

Bob Lloyd sends the following:

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water'.

The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM . Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM . The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.

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