**Minutes of the Tinmouth Community Fund Annual Meeting**

**February 27, 2021**

Present: Jan Krantz (Chair), Cathy Reynolds (Treasurer), Melody Squier (Vice Chair), Nikki Pfeiffer, Asha Carroll, Casey Voigtlaender, Todd Dennis, Lisa Patry, Helen Mango (Secretary), interested residents of the Town of Tinmouth.

Jan called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

Jan gave a brief introduction with a bit of the history of the Tinmouth Community Fund. The TCF is now in its 22nd year. It began with the construction of the Community Center – with all the volunteer labor and donations made at the time, there was a surplus of about $85,000 that was used as seed money to begin the TCF. The money was (and continues to be) invested in the Vermont Community Fund. The mission of the TCF is to provide funding for programs and services for the benefit of Tinmouth residents now and into the future. All donations are tax-deductible.

There were originally two funds: The Endowed Fund represented 75% of the TCF and the Reserve Fund represented 25%. The Continuing Education Fund was created 1.5 years ago; it is a separate fund devoted to supporting post-secondary education and training.

Funds are disbursed as: Community Grants, Small Business Grants (for start-up and expansion funding of small businesses that benefit Tinmouth) and K-12 Scholarship Grants (for K-12 children seeking funding for extracurricular programs such as summer camps and sporting activities).

The minutes of Feb. 18 were corrected and moved by Jan, seconded by Melody. The motion carried.

Treasurer’s report:

Cathy reported that as of 12/31/20:

Endowed Fund: $143,379

Reserve Fund: $59,633

Continuing Education Fund: $310,559

$513,571 is at the Vermont Community Fund. The rest is in the checkbooks managed by Town Treasurer Gail Fallar (the TCF is part of the Town of Tinmouth, so the checkbooks are managed by the Town Treasurer).

The Community Fund checkbook contained $11,022 as of 12/31/20 (this includes $3300 encumbered by 2020 Community Grants that went unfunded due to the Covid pandemic). The Scholarship Fund checkbook contained $6,094 as of 12/31/20.

Total net assets of the TCF as of 12/31/20 totaled $527,116.

The capital campaign for the Continuing Education Fund was launched one year ago, and immediately ran into the pandemic. However, the campaign netted $99,925; anonymous donations included one for $52,000 made in May, 2020. For 2021, the TCF has allocated up to $15,000 for Continuing Education grants.

Review of 2020 Community Grants

Asha listed the Community Grants awards from 2020, and re-iterated that several were unable to use their grants due to Covid restrictions; grants have been rolled over into 2021 in anticipation of the easing of restrictions. The 2020 awardees were:

* Tinmouth Contra Dance
* Ping pong at the Community Center
* Pickleball at the Community Center
* Butterfly garden at the Tinmouth School
* Climbing wall at the Tinmouth School
* Old Firehouse concert series
* Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department (for Community Center equipment)
* Tinmouth Library
* Aeos Equus
* Advertising in town (e.g. signs)
* Stop the Bleed training
* Tinmouth Blooms (2 grants)
* Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project
* Tinmouth Elves
* Tales of Tinmouth

2021 Community Grants

Helen read out the list of awardees (each received $500):

* Tinmouth Directory Committee
* Old Creamery Committee
* Tales of Tinmouth
* Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project
* Be Seen in Tinmouth
* Tinmouth Mountain School
* Tinmouth Plant Sale
* Tinmouth Elves
* (Tinmouth Walking Club was inadvertently left off the list)

2021 Small Business Grants

Melody announced that two local business were awarded Small Business Grants:

* Tom Jewelry ($300)
* Vermont Mountain Meadows Farm ($500)

Jan announced that for the first time, the TCF will be able to offer a second round of Community and Small Business grants. The process for applying will be the same as for the first round. Applications will be accepted now until the May 1 deadline.

Todd reported that he has updated the TCF pages on the Tinmouth Town website; applications can now be filled out online, and can be edited until the grant proposal deadlines. The TCF will be notified when applications come in, and applicants will receive a receipt that their application has been submitted. All information and instructions are available on the TCF pages of the town’s website. The TCF can be contacted at tinmouthcommunityfund@gmail.com.

2021 Continuing Education Scholarships

Cathy reported that last year’s celebration of grant awardees was conducted over Zoom, which had the benefit of allowing recipients in far-flung places to attend the ceremony. All 2020 recipients were able to attend the ceremony. In 2021, the TCF will award up to $15,000 for Continuing Education grants, which is more than in any past year. All post-secondary training and educational plans qualify. The Town Report (p. 27) contains the list of 2020’s awardees.

In 2020, the Johnson Family, Susan McIntosh Lloyd and Pam Garceau memorial scholarships (which are not affiliated with the TCF) were included in the awards ceremony. In 2021 the Lloyd and Garceau scholarships will be included.

Cathy asked for volunteers to serve on the Continuing Education scholarship committee. She explained that a detailed scoring matrix has been developed to help committee members with their decision-making. The committee, which has 10-11 members, only meets once a year (usually at the end of May, for awards in June). Cathy commented on how interesting it is to read the applications and get a glimpse into the lives of these students.

Jan expressed appreciation to Cathy for her many years of work developing and promoting the Continuing Education fund.

K-12 Scholarships

Melody reported that Covid affected the 2020 awards; four grants were given out (totaling $814), but only two ($274) could be used, and one had to change its focus to reflect what was actually available. She noted that the K-12 scholarships are not only for summer camps, but can be used for any extracurricular activities that benefit Tinmouth children.

The due date for 2021 K-12 scholarship applications is April 1, but this may be extended as continuing pandemic-related uncertainties persist.

Board member elections: The terms of Jan, Todd and Nikki are about to expire. All have agreed to stand for re-election. Jan asked if anyone else was interested in running for a spot on the TCF board. There were no further nominations. Helen moved the slate of candidates; Cathy seconded. The motion carried.

Melody proposed setting the K-12 scholarship deadline at May 1, although applications will be considered before then. Awards are made until the allocated funds are used up or the deadline is reached. Jan moved that the deadline be May 1; seconded by Melody. The motion carried.

Cathy re-iterated that there will be a second round of Community Grant funding. While new proposals will be prioritized, organizations that received Round 1 funding may apply for Round 2 funding.

Doug Fontein expressed thanks to the TCF, and reported that founding member Ramsey Yoder is currently at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, and asked that people keep Ramsey in their thoughts and prayers.

Melody moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 p.m., seconded by Cathy. Motion carried.

The TCF board met briefly to nominate board positions: Jan agreed to continue as board Chair, Cathy agreed to continue as board Treasurer, Helen agreed to continue as Secretary, and Casey volunteered to become the new board Vice Chair. The slate of candidates was moved by Asha, seconded by Melody. Motion carried. Jan adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Mango