TALES OF TINMOUTH

January 2025 Tinmouth
Vol. 39 Number 1 Vermont

Editors' Notes: *May the New Year be filled with Health and Happiness. Please Pray for Peace . . . Be Kind . . .*

The deadline for submissions (news, items of interest, get well wishes, ads, etc.) 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.

Gail Fallar & Pat Psholka

Special Town Meeting
Tuesday, January 28, 2025
Voting at the Community Center
from 8:00 am – 7:00 pm.

47 voters signed a **petition** for the Select Board to hold a special vote in January. "*Shall the Town of Tinmouth accept the gift of a timber framed community shade structure, to be constructed on the Town Green next to the playground, to be paid for with grants, donations and volunteer labor?*

The Informational Meeting for this vote will be held on **Sat., January 25th at 1:00** at the Community Center.

Please see page 4 for more information.

~ Early/Absentee Ballots ~

To request an **Early/Absentee Ballot**, you must do so before **5:00 pm** on **Monday, January 27th. Voted ballots must be returned by 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28th.** You can call the town office to request the ballot, 446-2498 or send an email to tinmouthtown@vermontel.net.

You can also vote **early** at the town office, or stop in to pick one up. Ballots are now available.

~ Regular Town Meeting 2025 ~

Regular Town Meeting will be held **Tuesday, March 4th** from 8am – 7pm. Early (absentee) balloting is also available for that. The Select Board has set the Informational Meeting for Saturday, **March 1st** at 1:00 at the Community Center.

Town Meeting will find voters choosing the following officers:

Moderator - Town - 1 year term
Select Board Member - 3 year term
Mill River Unified Union School
Board Member-3 year term
Lister - 3 year term
Auditor - 3 year term
Tax Collector (Delinquent) - 1 year term

~ Petition Deadlines ~

To run for an office, you need to file a petition with the signatures of 5 voters. The deadline to submit your petition to the Town Clerk for officers is Monday, January 27th . Petitions are available at the town office.

The deadline for petitions for Articles (public questions) to be added to the town meeting warning is Thursday, January 16th. You will need 21 voter signatures.



~ Christmas Baskets ~

The **Roy & Anne Wilbur Fund,** under the umbrella of the Tinmouth Community Church, along with the Tinmouth Elves, provided food and gift baskets to 20 families this year. There were also 20 fruit baskets delivered to elders and those needing a small boost of holiday spirit. They were very much appreciated. ***Thank you to all*** who donated food, time, and financially to make this happen. It helps keep Tinmouth a special place.

Thank you also to the Town for use of the Old Fire House, to the Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department for use of its refrigerators, to the Mill River Union High School Honor Society for its wonderful food contributions, to those who brought food to the Food Drive, to the Tinmouth Community Fund for grants for the Elves work, and to the folks who donated nearly $3,500 to the Wilbur Fund to help with this project.

Appreciation is also given to the many Elves who shopped, wrapped, filled boxes with food and baskets with fruit, and delivered some of them!

A hearty **Thank You** to the **Student Council at Tinmouth Mountain School** for organizing a Food Drive to re-stock the Food Shelf at the Town Office. There were over 10 boxes with a wide variety food donated!!

A number of folks sent very kind notes of appreciation.

Town Garage Phone Number

If you need to alert the road crew about a tree across the road, or have concerns with road conditions, please be advised the Town Garage has a telephone and answering machine.

Please leave a message, as the road crew most likely will be out working on the roads.

802-446-9163

Tinmouth Mountain School

Happy New Year! December passed in a blur of academic learning sprinkled with holiday festivities. Everything from Underground Spirit Week, where teachers secretly dressed up, to bringing back the beloved winter concert. Our student council donated 356 food items to the Tinmouth food shelf! Our winning class was Mrs. Davis's first and second grade with just over 100 items alone; they took this competition very seriously.

We were also able to bring back the student holiday shop. Students could purchase items for their families from new and used donated goods. Everything in the shop was $0.25; we wrapped and labeled all the gifts with the help of some wonderful parent volunteers: Theresa Dana, Chris Martone, Aileen Butler, and Sandra Hochberg. Watching the students shop for gifts for their families was very heartwarming, especially listening to their reasons for each gift. They put a lot of thought into their purchases.

Our winter sports program will begin when we return to school after the winter break. This is an exciting time for our students; they get to skate at Spartan Arena or ski/ride at Pico. If they choose Pico, they are given two-hour lessons for 6-weeks, a mid-week pass, and the opportunity to hone their skills or try a new sport. Our skaters enjoy the challenge of learning to balance on skates, chase their teachers on the ice, and hold speed races with their peers. Each program provides numerous opportunities for learning and growing through challenges.

This month, I want to introduce our special educator, **Heather Kent**. Heather has a love of language, and took several in college, including Japanese, which she loves to share with interested students! This passion extends to literacy and writing and is what steered her into special education. "I want students to love reading, not because it's something they have to do, but because it's a doorway to all the things they want to do." Besides teaching and reading, she is a history buff and listens to the podcast "Not Just the Tudors". Her favorite children's book is *The Great Fuzz Frenzy* by Janet Stevens, and currently, her favorite adult book is *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann.

We at Tinmouth Mountain School hope 2025 brings you all boundless opportunities, growth, and many memorable moments.

Jenn Galusha -Brothers
Principal
Tinmouth Mountain School

~ Reaching Out to Neighbors ~
by Marian Ackerman

Tinmouth has always been a kind community, where people care about each other. It is in this spirit that I am offering to reach out to anyone who might appreciate it, during a bad storm, or at any time, when possible by phone.

You may be a senior, live alone, are a single parent, live remotely, do not have family in the community, close friends, or feel vulnerable in some way. Perhaps you would just appreciate knowing that someone in the community cares, is thinking of you, and is offering support.

I had a unique experience last April, a first in my 44 years as a resident of Tinmouth. A very intense snow storm knocked down trees and left a powerline hovering close to and across my driveway.

Those of us living on Upper Gulf Rd, Gulf Rd, and Journey's End were without power for days. Although I have a faithful generator, for the first time I lost access to my phone and computer for 5 days and had no way of communicating with the outside world, had there been an emergency.

Words cannot describe how grateful I was when Kevin Eaton from the Fire Dept. came knocking on my door, and asked if I needed anything.

The next day my daughter drove from Andover, VT in the continuing storm, walked up my driveway, as did a friend from Tinmouth, two new friends from Middletown Springs drove to Tinmouth trying to locate my house to check on me, and friends from Wallingford called to see how I was managing when they could finally reach me by phone.

While so very grateful for this faithful network, I also became aware of how important it is to have a broader support system in my home base community. This experience inspired me to reach out to: two couples in Tinmouth to ask if they would be so kind to keep me in mind during a bad storm; to Ray Pratt, who oversees emergencies in town and to Gail Fallar, Town Clerk, to inquire how Tinmouth and other communities check on vulnerable people as needed.

Thankfully, the Tinmouth Fire Dept and Gail have an informal but seemingly magical way of knowing who might need help. I am so appreciative of the "Angels" who were there for me. I would like to be there for you.

Recently Gail and I reviewed a list of Tinmouth residents to see who might appreciate check-in calls. I will be in touch to see if you are interested.

All are welcome to contact me at 802-235-2427, marianintinmouth@gmail.com

"Our purpose in life is to help others along the way." ~ ***Sandra Day O'Conner***

~ January reminder from your local Fire Department (TVFD) ~

Please remember to keep your walkways shoveled and clear – *even to the doors you only use occasionally* – you never know when you might need the Rescue Squad or which door they may need to use. Goes for the inside too, don't block doorways with 'stuff'. You may need to make a hasty exit (in case of fire) or the Fire Department may need to get in.

TVFD also reminds everyone to make sure that your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working and that you have MORE THAN <u>ONE WAY</u> out of your house!

~ "Open Gym Sessions" ~
By Robbie Leeds

Thanks to all those who came to the first open gym session on December 8th hosted by the Recreation Committee. Each session will focus on one specific activity. The first session was basketball, the second session will focus on **SOCCER**. These Open Gym Sessions will be open to all adults and kids, but kids under the age of 12 need a parent or guardian present.

The Dates are:
Sunday, January 5th from 2-4p - Activity: Soccer
Sunday, January 19th from 2-4p - Activity: TBD
Sunday, February 2nd from 2-4p - Activity: TBD

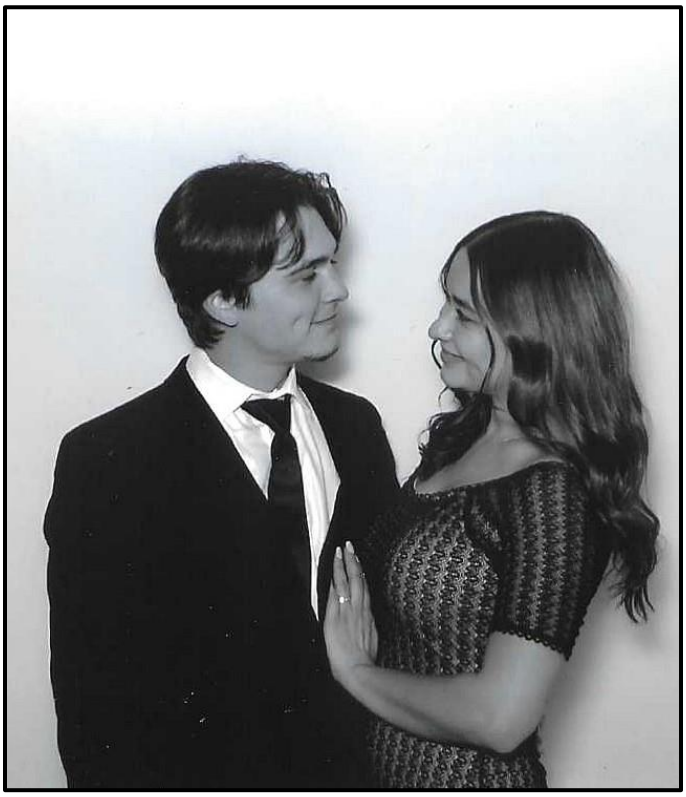
If you have any questions, feel free to email Robbie at Robbiebruceleeds@gmail.com



December's "Open Gym"

The Wallingford Post Office has a new phone number – 1-802-245-6281. A number of folks have been trying to call, but the old 446 number no longer works – it just rings and rings, in la-la land.

~ Community News ~



Ryan and Lana Deppert are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, **Amanda,** to **Quinn Kimball** of Shrewsbury.

A Summer wedding is planned for 2025.

Get Well Wishes are sent to **Penny Bushee, Maleynda Morales, John Squier, Doug Hewitt,** and **all those** dealing with Covid, RSV, colds, and the flu.

~ Want to Craft and Meet Others? ~
Nancy Gucker Birdsall, Betti Jaquay, Sherry Johnson, and Cindy Pollock

We would like to welcome other crafters to meet with us every Monday at 1pm. Crafts include but are not limited to crochet, rug hooking, weaving, knitting and just plain talking.

When the weather is bad, or one of us is sick or out of town, we meet via Zoom. Just email Sherry for the Zoom link. We decide on each Sunday how/where we will be meeting.

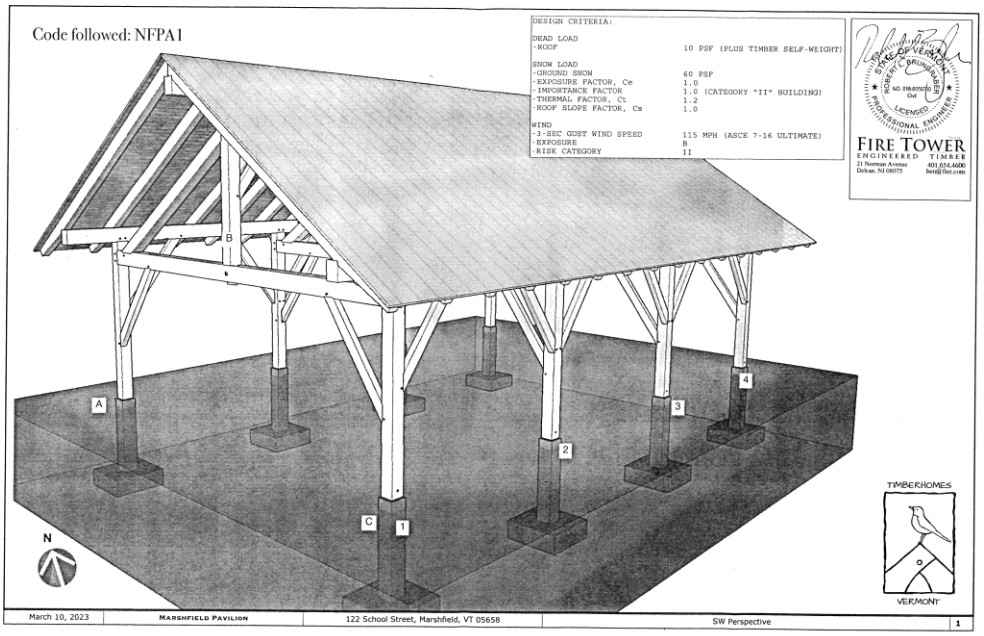
Otherwise, we meet at the Old Fire House inside/outside depending on the weather.

We generally are there from 1pm-3pm and welcome new crafters. You can even come to just chat.

When we are inside, we ask people wear masks since some of us are vulnerable.

There is a restroom available. Hope to see you there. Email Sherry at vtsjohnson@icloud.com or call 802-446-3307 if you have questions.

This is the Proposed Pavilion-Community Shade Structure to be voted on at the January 28th Special Town Meeting. It will be constructed on the west side of the playground that is next to the Community Center. It will have a white pine frame, a metal roof, and a Shur-Pak (gravel floor). Proposed uses include: a gathering place, shade for the picnic tables, and another outdoor classroom for the school.



This structure is available because the Town of Marshfield purchased it for a pavilion only to have the site washed away in a flood, and can no longer use it. The company that made it and is currently storing it, is available to build it here.

The Select Board called a Special Town Meeting after proponents of this project presented a petition signed by 47 voters calling for a vote in January. The petitioners did not want to wait until town meeting on March 4th as they wanted to be able to contract with vendors sooner than later. It is estimated to cost **$72,491**, which will be paid for with a $25,000 state grant (which was approved and has to be matched), the Tinmouth Community Fund has pledged $10,000, those who run the Annual Plant Sale have pledged $10,000, and there are other donors, who will cover the costs of initial construction. They have repeatedly stated that there will be no cost to taxpayers, that it is a gift to the Town. Volunteers will attach the roofing.

The idea of a pavilion originated with the Equity and Inclusion Committee (E & I). A group of citizens then worked on the project and finding funding sources. The Chair of the E & I Committee approached the Select Board at its regular August meeting to discuss the proposal. The Select Board agreed to allow the E & I Chair (also a Select Board member) to gather information that could be voted on at town meeting. When one grant opportunity fell through, another was presented with a short time frame to apply. That created the need for a special Select Board meeting.

The first opportunity for public input was September 3rd when there were 4 meetings – the Recreation Committee (asked to write a letter of support for the project), the Community Fund (asked to provide financial support), the Equity and Inclusion Committee (letter of support), and a special Select Board meeting to approve applying for the grant which was due in a week's time. Meetings began at 5:30. There were a number of questions raised – regarding storm water, lack of public process (in the past the Select Board appointed a committee to study projects – such as the community center, the playground, the new town garage), cost to taxpayers, proposed use, lack of using the town's bid process, handicapped access, bathroom facilities, etc. In the end, the Select Board decided to apply for the grant, on a 2-1 vote, contingent on a public informational meeting being held. That meeting was held on October 16th. Some of the questions were answered, but others remain. A number of those present spoke in favor of the project. One of those who attended noted that if the proper town process had been followed, questions would have been answered before the project reached the voting stage.

There are many who support the idea, but have serious concerns about the lack of process and the public not being invited to participate either as a member of a committee or being able to attend the discussions deciding size, location, design, etc.. Questions such as: should the floor be concrete, should the long-standing water problem at the site that was initially going to be fixed (but now is not), be fixed first? Who would pay for those changes?

Please try to attend the Informational Meeting on
Saturday, January 25th at 1:00 at the Community Center and vote on Tuesday the 28th.

~ Dog Licenses Due April 1st ~



Vermont law requires all dogs, aged 6 months and older, to be registered by April 1st each year. A current rabies certificate is required. You can call the Town Office if you don't know if your dog needs a shot or not. Fees increased $2 this year due to a new state fee to help create a new division in the Department of Public Safety for Animal Welfare. Fees are $11 for neutered/spayed dogs and $15 for those that are not.

You can also license them by mail if you wish.

~ Homestead Declaration ~

This is a reminder that you need to file an **annual** Homestead Declaration with the Vermont Department of Taxes, form HS-122. You must file this to qualify for the homestead education tax rate and to request a property tax adjustment if you are eligible.

You must also file form HI-144 (household income), **due April 15th**. This is required even if you do not have to file or pay state income taxes.

~ Front Porch Forum ~
Connect with your Tinmouth Neighbors

Have you checked out Front Porch Forum yet? To sign up, go to http://FrontPorchForum.com. Or stop by the town office to sign up!! 200+ households have signed to date! Good way to discuss community issues, sell a canoe, give away a kitten, etc. If you are a second home owner you can use your 911 address.

Friends of the Rutland Free Library
February Book Sale

10 Court St., Rutland, VT 802-773-1860
Friday, February 14 (10 - 4) and
Saturday, February 15 (10-2)
Public Always Welcome
Thousands of organized, gently used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages.
Always a broad selection of rare and antique books.
All purchases by donation only. Limit of two grocery bags per family. No book dealers.
Proceeds to support library programs and collections and designated library projects.
www.rutlandfree.org

Whenever you are to do a thing, though it can never be known but to yourself, ask yourself how you would act were all the world looking at you, and act accordingly. - - ***Thomas Jefferson***

~ Legislative Contact Info ~

The Vermont General Assembly is back in session, meeting in person but also sometimes virtually. If you wish to contact your State Senators or Representatives, here is the info:

You can call the Sergeant-at-Arms at 1-800-322-5616 and leave a message, or use email addresses below.

Rutland-Bennington District –
Rep. Chris Pritchard: cpritchard@leg.state.vt.us
Rutland County Senators-
Sen. Brian Collamore: bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us
Sen. David Weeks: dweeks@leg.state.vt.us
Sen. Terry Williams: tkwilliams@leg.state.vt.us

You can also access the Legislature's website at www.leg.state.vt.us. There you can find who is on which committee, what bills have been introduced, track each bill's progress, review committee agendas, etc. There is a wealth of information available. You may also be able to watch debate live via video links.

Your input can be important in their decision-making. Let them know your concerns!

~ Tinmouth Historical & Genealogical Society ~

THGS will meet on ***Sunday, January 26th at 1:30*** at the Town Office, to discuss possible programs for 2025 and what to do with the newly recovered *Tinmouth Furnace*, a box stove built in Tinmouth 200 years ago!! Research is need to try to figure out where in town it was made.

All are welcome, refreshments will be provided.

~ Nature Notes ~

2024 was the warmest on record!

In early January, Burlington experienced its first below zero temperature in 665 days!!

Have you noticed? Can you tell? Daylight hours are getting longer!! The old timers used to say, *"As the days lengthen, the cold strengthens."*

As *Tales* goes to print on the 16th, it was noted that it has snowed every day but one since the beginning of the month. Some days only a dusting, others 3 or 4 inches.

The *Tales of Tinmouth* is on the Tinmouth website (tinmouthvt.gov), the Town's new website address! Look under "Info". It is in color there, the printed version is only black and white.

Donations are greatly appreciated, thank you for your support!! We are all volunteers, no one gets paid.

~ Meeting Highlights ~

Complete minutes are available at the town office.
All highlights are edited by Ye Olde Editor.

Select Board ~ 12/4/24 ~ Special – *In December Tales and on the Town's website – tinmouthvt.gov.*

Select Board (SB) ~ 12/12/2024

Members present (in-person): Kevin Eaton, Melody Squier, and Judy Gilmore
Others present:
In-person: Eric Buffum-Road Commissioner, Michael Fallar, Marshall Squier, Caleb Scott, David Birdsall, Hollis Squier, Doug Fontein, Rep. Chris Pritchard, and Gail Fallar-Select Board Assistant (SBA)
Via Zoom and phone: Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Nancy Gucker Birdsall, Cindy Pollock, and Rick Fallar

Citizen's Input ~ David expressed concern with meeting videos being deleted from the Town's website, Board added to the agenda for January 9th. Gail advised that none of the videos have been deleted.

Kim expressed support for appointing Marshall Squier to the Planning Commission, and concern with the differential equipment in the trucks not working properly.

Highway ~

Eric reported road crew has been plowing snow and flagging for the tree work being done on Route 140, and that the sander for the one-ton needed repair. He advised the Board go out to bid with the specs for the 615 International for a **replacement tandem truck**. After discussion, Board voted to send out requests with a return date of January 9th. Discussed Equipment Fund, with the FY25 annual allotment and the FY26 annual allotment, there should be enough to pay for it.

Board reviewed **Highway end of year report**. Board voted to accept. Board will review draft budget proposal for January meeting.

VLCT PACIF Safety Grant application for an alarm system for the town garage, after discussion, Board agreed by consensus to ratify the Chair's signing due to the deadline. It was a one page document.

Better Roads grant – Eric noted that Josh Carvajal (VTRANS stream alteration specialist) advised that a hydraulic study was needed before he could size the needed culvert size. That will take time, the deadline for this grant is December 27th – so have to pass for this year.

Transfer Station Retaining Wall ~ Board discussed the deterioration of the wall – 40 years or so old, old poles are rotting. Eric noted he would like to cut it down to match the wall for the metal dumpster, use waste block, and rebuild the roof. Board asked for an estimate for their special meeting on the 30th. (*Which was later cancelled.*)

VAST (Vermont Association of Snow Travelers) request – Eric requested permission for snowmobilers to use the Town Trail in the Purchase and down to the ball field. It will not be on the official VAST map, but the change was necessary as a previous location next to the town garage lot is no longer available. Board agreed by consensus.

Financial ~

General Fund End of Year FY24 Report – Board voted to accept.

Bills and Orders ~ Board reviewed and approved warrants. Payroll warrants #20, 21, 22, and 23; and Accounts Payable warrants #18 and 19.

ARPA ~ Current balance of unallocated of $22,613 is left. It was suggested that some of it be used to help those in need for help with wood, fuel oil, etc. Other possible uses are another OWL speaker system – an upgrade will cost $4K to $5K and will allow for better participation for virtual users; as well as air exchangers for the town office.

Rep. Chris Pritchard – Chris advised he was checking in with all the Boards to offer his contact information and ask for concerns to take to Montpelier. He wants to be accessible to everyone. Major concern raised was property taxes.

Employee Holiday Bonus ~ Board agreed by consensus to pay a $100 holiday bonus to the road crew, transfer station crew and the town office staff.

Pavilion Next Steps ~ Melody advised that an engineer from Otter Creek Engineering advised the pavilion would have little effect on the water run-off as long as it was built without addressing the existing water issue. If the ditching was done as first proposed, that might require some engineering work. So now the proposal is to build the pavilion with a gravel (Shur Pak) floor and a wide drip line and not fix the water problem.

There were concerns raised about not doing anything with the long existing wet area, scheduling its use, bathroom access, and lack of process (like not going out to bid).

These were met with, why worry if the funds are donated, it's a gift – don't worry about getting a better price, don't look a gift horse in the mouth, and there were many unanswered questions when the community center was built that were dealt with after.

47 voters signed a **petition** for the Select Board to hold a special vote in January. "*Shall the Town of Tinmouth accept the gift of a timber framed community shade structure, to be constructed on the Town Green next to the playground, to be paid for with grants, donations and volunteer labor?*

Much discussion. Why couldn't the vote wait until town meeting (March 4th). Supporters wanted the early vote to be able to secure contractors. Others thought the Select Board should add the question to the town meeting warning.

After discussion which included advice from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns that petitions could not specify a date, and that this might set a precedent for

future petitions, Melody moved and Kevin 2nded to accept the petition, they voted yes, Judy voted no (noting that town meeting was just around the corner).

After more discussion of time frames required, Board voted to hold a **Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, January 28th**, with the **Informational meeting on Saturday, January 25th** at 1:00 at the Community Center.

Board scheduled a **special Select Board meeting on December 18th** to approve and sign the warning for the special town meeting. Melody will draft a letter to the Town of Marshfield and VTTimber Frames advising them of the current status of the pavilion project, for the Board to review at that meeting.

Planning Commission (PC) Vacancy ~ Michael as PC Chair, advised that the PC voted 7 to 1 to recommend Joe Buffum be appointed to the Planning Commission to fill the vacancy created by Bob Lloyd's resignation. They also felt that Robbie Leeds would be a good choice if another vacancy occurred. After discussion, Board voted 2-1 to appoint Joe.

Select Board (SB) ~ 12/18/24 ~ Special

Select Board members present: Judy Gilmore, Kevin Eaton, and Melody Squier.

Others present: Caleb Scott, David Birdsall, Marshall Squier and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant.

Via Zoom- Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Rick Fallar, and Nancy Gucker Birdsall.

Board reviewed, approved and signed the warning for the petitioned Special Town Meeting on January 28th.

Gail explained that the ARPA funds previously dispersed to the Capital Building Fund and the Old Creamery Project had to be returned to the General Fund to be included in the Resolution for Obligation per ARPA rules. Board voted to transfer the $15,000 from the Capital Building Fund and $20,000 from the Old Creamery Project back to the General Fund.

Board reviewed ARPA Resolution to Obligate remaining ARPA funds. Board voted to approve and signed the Resolution.

Board reviewed Melody's draft letters to Marshfield and VTTimber Frames. Members decided to send one letter advising of the upcoming vote on January 28th and the possibility of a reconsideration, noting no action can be taken until those steps are completed.

Marshall announced there would be caroling at the old fire house on the Dec. 21st and a hike to the mountain cabin on January 11th.

Caleb inquired about the logs/wood left in the ditches on Rte. 140 from the tree cutting project. Landowners have first dibs as the wood belongs to them.

Planning Commission ~ 12/19/2024

Members present in-person: Michael Fallar, Larry Carabeau, Joe Buffum, Vito Macaluso, Judy Gilmore, and Andy Gilmore

Members present via Zoom: Kim Harbaugh

Others: present in-person: Gail Fallar Secretary; and via Zoom: Sherry Johnson

Michael called the meeting to order, welcomed new member Joe Buffum, wished everyone Merry Christmas, and thanked members for bringing cookies.

Members continued review of the draft Enhanced Energy Plan (EEP) – marked up working copy to try to reflect how it applies to Tinmouth, removing actions that do not pertain to Tinmouth, certainly not in the next 8 years – such as The Bus coming to Tinmouth, and deciding to include energy actions already taken by the town. Members also wondered how *Actions* like determining the number of weatherized buildings, HVA systems and water heating systems would be accomplished and if they needed to be included. The discussion stopped at the Electric section, review nearly finished, graphics provided by Jeremy helped a bit.

Members decided the January 16th meeting will be EEP – Jeremy from RRPC will attend, hope to get much of it wrapped up by then. February will be devoted to the Town Plan update. March for EEP if needed.

Equity and Inclusion Committee ~ 12/2/24

With thanks to Sherry Johnson, Sec.

Members present: In-person – none.

Via Zoom: Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Melody Squier, Cindy Pollock, Rainbow Squier, and Meadow Squier

Others: In-person-Gail Fallar; via Zoom-Marshall Squier

Minutes: The 9/23/24 minutes were approved with the correction that the grant not received for a possible lecture series was from the Vermont Community Foundation.

Recreational Facilities Grant Update:

The Town received full award from BGS Building Communities/Recreational Facilities Grant of $25,000. Matching funds will be provided through the Tinmouth Community Fund, and donations.

Melody reminded that the Tinmouth Community Fund is not taxpayer money, its monies are donations from community members.

The Select Board will continue with the next steps for the shade/shelter pavilion project.

Welcome Sign Update:

Rainbow has a design sample that will be displayed at Town Informational Meeting. Also solicit other designs from local artists for some of the other entrances into town. We may need to write another grant for the other entrances to the town. Rainbow suggested we could leverage our first design and sell "Merch" to raise money

for the other signs. Cole Elmendorf and Lothar Schmelzenbach will help with the crafting and installation when it is time.

We will share design and placement ideas with the Select Board and ask for approval. Melody will have it put on the Select Board agenda for January or February.

Family/Heritage Dinner/Story telling

Date for the event is March 22nd at the Community Center. Discussion about posting information for the event in early 2025. Also talked about how to set up the evening, decoration ideas etc. The concept is to have a potluck with community members bringing dishes inspired by their family heritage, places they have traveled, family recipes handed down and to share the memories/story that inspired the food they share.

Meadow felt it would be great for all committee members to reach out personally to folks to explain/engage them in the event and let them know we want any and all come and share food and story!

Also discussed technology to allow those that are not able to come in person to be able to hear the stories and share their own.

Other Future Ideas

Melody noted that she was reading about Native American Heritage Day which was November 29th. She will share links that she found that have educational programs/ideas which Committee may wish to explore.

Recreation Committee ~ 12/16/24

With thanks to Martha Stanley, Sec.

Members present: Robbie Leeds, Doug Fontein, Martha Stanley, and via Zoom - Colleen Balch and David Levant.

Others Present: Gail Fallar, Marshall Squier, Melody Squier, and via Zoom- Sherry Johnson

Members discussed plans for Guided Walks with Marshall Squier

Marshall will guide as many hikes as the Committee would like. Offered up many suggestions.
Choose dates and times, let folks know level of difficulty. Town sponsored event so would have insurance coverage. First hike will be on January 11, 2025 weather dependent - Hike to the Town cabin in the Purchase.

Melody suggested an alternative if conditions are not good for the cabin hike, Marshall suggested a channel walk. A walk along the Channel walk would also provide an opportunity to identify black ash trees. A target favorite for the ash borer.

Open Gym

First session - Basketball, went well, 12 attended.
Second session - January 5th will be soccer

Old Business

Basketball court repair – moved to the Spring
Tinmouth Day involvement - Sherry asked if committee would consider taking on the activities portion of the day. The Committee agreed to take that on.

New Business

Doug reminded the Committee to keep alive the idea leveling of the ball field, to remember the school Principal has said the kids want a good ball field.

Big undertaking and costs could be anywhere from $12,000 to $50,000. This would need a grant, there may be an outdoor recreation grant available. Colleen will research it.

Next meeting January 13, 2025

CROSSMAN'S GENERAL STORE
8 EAST STREET
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS, VT 05757
802-235-2251
COME CHECK OUT OUR NEW DELI !!
THE DELI IS OPEN
MONDAY - WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY
FROM 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M
WE CAN CUSTOM MAKE SANDWICHES DURING THOSE HOURS OR THERE ARE PLENTY OF PREMADES TO GRAB AND GO!
WE WILL ALSO HAVE PIZZA - HOT DOGS AND SOUP OF THE DAY DURING DELI HOURS ALONG WITH SOME SANDWICH SPECIALS.
DON'T FORGET YOUR SLICED DELI MEATS & CHEESE
BIGGEST AND BEST SANDWICHES AROUND
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Stories Told in Tinmouth:

Tinmouth Old Firehouse



Please join us for an ongoing series of storytelling evenings at the Tinmouth Old Firehouse in beautiful downtown Tinmouth
Weather permitting - the 2nd Friday of each month – 7:00 PM.

December 13 - Heroes, teachers, bosses
January 10 - Close calls
February 14 - A gift
March 14 - Secrets
April 11 – The decision that changed everything

Come share your true 5-minute story with a live audience of kind and supportive listeners, or come to listen and enjoy!

Use the prompt to inspire you, or share a story based on your own inspiration.
Stories about Tinmouth are always welcome.

~ Please join us for the fun and refreshments ~

This event is based on our desire to connect with each other through shared experiences in stories and to keep the tradition of storytelling alive. It is based on the STORY SLAM model. **Audience members put their name in a basket and storytellers are chosen randomly to tell their true story.**

This is a free event sponsored by the Tinmouth Community Fund.
All are welcome!

Please follow us on Facebook:
Tinmouth Old Firehouse Concerts & Town Events
Questions: 802-881-6775 (call or text)

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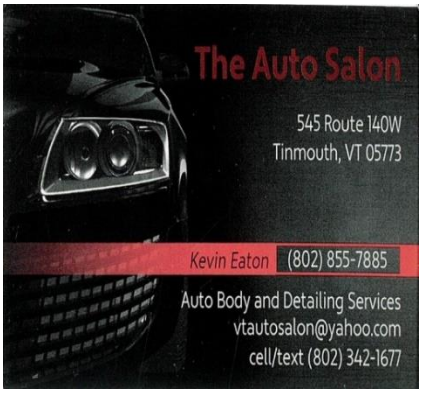
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Tinmouth Road House and Best Moon Catering

Happy New Year from the team at Tinmouth Roadhouse and Best Moon Catering!!

Tinmouth Roadhouse is open every Saturday for brunch from 8am to 1pm.

We have fully cooked and ready to heat and eat frozen meals in our dining room freezer.

We have been asked to bring back our ready to heat and eat fresh meals for Saturday pick-up, so we have added two to choose from to this week's menu.

*Assortment of freshly made baked goods will be available while supplies last

*Pie special is a small 4 serving triple citrus cream pie, lemon, lime and orange cream pie with a graham cracker crust!

Two ready to heat and eat dinner specials this week are below. Limited supplies of these meals.
*Crispy artichoke and parmesan pasta (vegetarian)
*Chicken Al Pastor burrito bowl, chicken thighs marinated in a sweet and lightly spiced sauce baked with pineapple served with Mexican style rice with corn and house made refried beans. With sides of avocado crema and freshly made salsa.

Please watch Front Porch Forum for details or call Corrie Best at **802-446-9473**.

Located at 580 Route 140 – across from the School/Community Center (former Snack Bar).

" Practice Random Acts of Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty"

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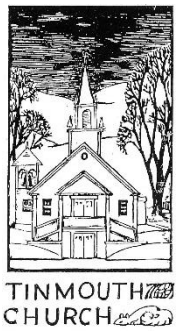


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We also have Maple Cream and Maple Sugar in limited supply. Please contact us with any special orders, we can also accommodate your party/weddings with maple favors!

Great Gift Idea!!

Remember the "***Golden Rule!"*** *"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."*



Everyone Is Welcome in This

Community of Worship and Faith

TINMOUTH COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday Service 9:00 a.m.

Rev. Robert A Noble, III

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2025 Hunting and Fishing Licenses are available at the Town Office.
The Town gets $1.50 for each license sold.

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Memories, friends and happy hours.
May blessings come from heaven above,
To fill your life with peace and love.
. . . . . An English Blessing

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Or here!!

~ January 2025 Calendar of Events ~

New Year's Day	**Wednesday**	**1st**		**Town Office ~ Closed**
New Year's Day	**Wednesday**	**1st**	**4:00 -7:00**	**Transfer Station ~ OPEN**
Fire Department	**Thursday**	**2nd**	**7:00**	**Fire House**
Select Board	**Thursday**	**9th**	**7:00**	**Town Office & Virtual**
Story Telling	**Friday**	**10th**	**7:00**	**Old Fire House**
Winter Hike	**Saturday**	**11th**	**9 – 2/3**	**To the Town Cabin**
Planning Commission	**Thursday**	**16th**	**7:00**	**Town Office & Virtual**
Deadline for Petitions -Articles	**Thursday**	**16th**	**5:00**	**Town Office**
Recreation Committee	**Monday**	**20th**	**7:00**	**Town Office & Virtual**
***Tales of Tinmouth* Deadline**	**Monday**	**20th**		**Don't Miss It!**
Informational Meeting	**Saturday**	**25th**	**1:00**	**Community Center**
Historical Society Meeting	**Sunday**	**26th**	**1:30**	**Town Office**
Deadline for Petitions-Officers	**Monday**	**27th**	**5:00**	**Town Office**
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING	**Tuesday**	**28th**	**8:00 AM – 7:00**	**Community Center**

The Conservation Commission moved its meeting to Monday, February 17th.

Open Gym at the Community Center - Jan 5th and 19th and Feb. 2nd 2:00 – 4:00

Transfer Station hours are Wednesday 4:00 – 7:00 pm & Saturday 8:00 am – noon.

~ Sunday Church Service ~ 9:00 AM All are welcome! ~

~ The Library is open Thursdays 2:00-5:00 PM ~ And the first Saturday of the month, 10-noon.

Craft Club ~ Mondays at the Old Fire House ~ 1:00-3:00 All Welcome!

Informational Meeting Sat.
Jan. 25th 1:00
Special Town Meeting
Voting
Tuesday, January 28th
8:00 AM – 7:00
Community Center

Tales of Tinmouth
515 North End Road
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