

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
Thursday, August 8, 2024
Meeting Minutes - Regular**

Kevin called the meeting to order at 6:30 at a remote location. The Board entered Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations which premature general public knowledge would disadvantage the town. Board exited at 6:55. No action taken.

At the Town Office, Kevin called the regular meeting to order at 7:10 and welcomed everyone.

Members present: Judy Gilmore, Kevin Eaton, and Melody Squier

Others present: Eric Buffum-Road Commissioner, Hollis Squier, Michael Fallar, David Birdsall, Dale Aines, Seth Lloyd, Ann Lundquist, Andrew Roy, Clara Roy, Caroline Roy, Tami Carboni-Branchaud, Ilona Allen, Carter Allen, and via zoom Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Cathy Reynolds, Doug Fontein, Rick Fallar, and Mohamed Ait Sghir.

Kevin asked for a moment of silence to honor and remember the late Frank Sears, former Select Board Chair, for his dedication and service to the town.

Board reviewed the **agenda**, no additions or deletions.

Minutes of July 11, 2024 were approved as written, Judy moved, Kevin 2nded all voted in favor.

Citizen's Input: Sherry, as coordinator of the Town Fun Day Parade, thanked Eric and Glenn for driving a town truck and loader in the parade.

Highway: Everyone present introduced themselves, and folks on zoom at that time were acknowledged.

Pent Road Discussion: This was on the agenda as several folks raised concerns with the recent messy condition of a section of the road. The Pent Road is mostly a Class 4 Road, meaning that the Town does not maintain the road, but is responsible bridges and culverts. The Pent Road provides access to the Town Forest/Recreation area on the top of Tinmouth Mountain. The Pent Road travels through the Roy's property and then there is a long right of way through Mr. Aines' property to the Town parcel.

Kevin advised that the Pent Road was a mess due to excavation work being done on the road to repair it and then rain making everything muddy.

David, as Dale's forestry consultant, advised that he had spoken with adjoining landowners and did not realize that the Select Board needed to grant permission for work on a town road. He noted Mr. Aines was trying to improve the road so that a log truck could reach his property and his logging operation. He presented a request for permission to continue. Mr. Aines advised that he was just getting started when concerns were raised about the work being done.

There was much discussion about the process, whether the Town has a right of way, etc. The SBA advised that Town does have a right of way, more than one in fact, and that Select Board approval is needed to work on a town road – something she has advised several times.

Seth advised that his family has spent \$40,000 improving the northern end of Pent Road (with the Select Board's permission) and was concerned that the section of the road they had improved would not be returned to its original condition. He also expressed concern with the work further south on their property – the road was widened, cutouts were leading into a stream, tree roots damaged, etc.

The Roy's expressed support for the work done and encouraged more, though they also expressed concern with more traffic by providing better access to the Town's lot. They own the property between the Lloyds' and Aines along the Pent Road. Mr. Aines's property is located at the end of the Pent Road.

Others expressed support for fixing the road, cutting brush in the right of way, and logging.

In the end, Judy moved and Kevin 2nded, to authorize the Road Commissioner to determine improvements needed in discussion with Mr. Birdsall and Mr. Aines for the plan for the road work. All voted in favor. The SB will then approve the request to repair the Town's road.

Eric reported work was continuing on the Class 3 section of the Pent Road and the Upper Gulf Road for the Grant-In-Aide project. The culvert project on North East Road near Patry's was nearly done – a bit of ditching and berm removal was needed along with seeding and mulching.

Maplebrook Lane: Frank Carmen requested repair to the driveway as water runoff from McNamara Road was causing erosion on the driveway. Hollis advised that he had cleaned out a cut-out above the driveway – there were many pine needles. Eric noted the road crew will try to maintain it to enable the water to leave the road before getting to the driveway. There is also a problem area farther up the road, Melody advised they try to keep the water from jumping the culvert up there. It was also suggested that Mr. Carmen also try to keep the cut-out clean.

West Tinmouth Winter Road Maintenance: Eric and Kevin will attend a Wells Select Board meeting to discuss a possible arrangement.

Financial: Gail noted the end of year reports are still being worked on. Board reviewed the Warrants and Orders – Kevin moved and Judy 2nded to approve them, all voted in favor. Payroll Warrants: #2, #3, #4, and #5, and Accounts Payable Warrants #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5.

Old Business: Select Board asked Eric to order the solar safety lights for the school zone – 25 mph signs and for the stop sign at Route 140 and Mtn. View Road.

Citizen's Concern: Michael expressed concern for light and sign pollution, and for maintaining scenic values.

New Business:

Melody stepped to the other side of the table, as a citizen and Chair of the Equity and Inclusion Committee, to ask for Board permission to investigate installation of a **pavilion** west of the

playground that is next to community center. She is looking into grants to help cover the costs, which may be \$40-\$60K, a 24' x 42' might fit. The first grant from Better Places no longer has any funds, so she is looking at a 50/50 matching grant. She suggested it be a Third Space, anyone can use it without asking permission or scheduling its use. Board agreed by consensus for her to proceed, to come back with more information, and take it to voters at town meeting. Melody noted the information should be for an informational meeting – not town meeting.

Planning Commission Report: Michael, as Chair, spoke for the PC regarding the SB's request for help understanding what town committees, commissions and boards do. He noted that there were four members of the PC present – Judy, Ann, Kim on Zoom, and himself. Planning Commissions are created by state statute, Tinmouth having established one in the early 1970's. The first Town Plan was adopted in 1974. There have been updates over the years, the one in 2007 was recognized as the Town Plan of the Year by the Vermont Planners Association. The goal of the PC is to represent and plan for the benefit and growth of the Town. They are currently working on an update to the Town Plan for re-adoption in 2025. He noted that the recent community survey showed most folks value the aesthetics and the original goals are important, and that people want space. Most of the current plan has been reviewed and updated, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission is helping with the energy section – working on an Enhanced Energy Plan (EEP). He also noted that the lake is clustered housing and that the lake should be given more attention.

Ann advised that being new on the PC is very interesting and that making the EEP will take work.

Unlicensed Dogs: Board signed warrant for the Animal Control Officers to round up unlicensed dogs. There are about 10 owners that have not yet registered their dogs for 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Next meeting is September 12, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar

Select Board Assistant.