

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
Tuesday, September 3, 2024
Meeting Minutes - Special Meeting**

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

Others present: Michael Fallar, Rick Fallar, Doug Fontein, Marshall Squier, Aileen Miner, Paula and Bart Bonazinga, Cindy Pollock, Theresa Dana and daughter Fjalldis, Gregg and Tina Casey, Lothar Schmelzenbach, Robbie Leeds, Larry and Cris Carabeau, Bess Lewis, Peter Gilmore, Jan Krantz, Cathy Reynolds, Deb Buffum, Martha Stanley, Chris Martone and via zoom Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, David Levant, and David Hooke from TimberHomes Vermont.

Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:01, noting the special meeting was called to discuss a proposed pavilion on the Town Green and whether to apply for a state grant for it.

Melody explained her process to create a 3rd Place for people to meet, a pavilion for the Town Green to be used for a variety of uses, including by the school as an outdoor classroom, an informal meeting place, adding the picnic tables, etc. The urgency of the decision is that a state recreation grant has a deadline of September 10th. It is a 50/50 match grant – up to \$25,000. The town's share is being provided by the Tinmouth Community Fund (TCF); the folks who run the Plant Sale; and private donations. The grant requires proving that all funding is being covered so the TCF Board decided to provide a bridge loan while private fund raising is done if the grant is approved. There is a timber frame structure available as the Town of Marshfield, who ordered it, has been flooded and can no longer use it. Budget presented was \$66,987.

There were many questions: about the process, lack of transparency, cost to tax payers, storm water issues, location, parking, fund raising, maintenance responsibilities, handicap accessibility, insurance, cost overruns, the grant process, management, lighting, necessity, access during school hours, existing public meeting spaces, the need for more discussion and community involvement, etc.

Support for the idea was voiced, appreciation expressed to Melody for all her work, opportunity to get it done soon, benefits to the community, volunteers will be needed to help with construction, the Tinmouth Community Fund has a reserve account at the Vermont Community Foundation with a balance of \$47,703, letters of support from the School Principal, the Recreation Committee, the Equity and Inclusion Committee and the Tinmouth Community Fund.

After much discussion, Melody moved that the Select Board apply for the grant, if the \$25,000 is not approved the project will not go forward, Kevin 2nded it contingent on the Board holding a public meeting in October to allow questions to be answered. After more discussion, Melody and Kevin voted yes, Judy voted no. Judy noted that the SB had voted in August to allow Melody to gather information to present to voters at town meeting and that voters should have a say.

A tentative date of October 16th was set for the information meeting.

After most of the audience departed, the Board reviewed and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Tinmouth, the Town of Marshfield and TimberHomes Vermont, regarding purchasing the frame contingent on the grant amount being approved. Kevin moved to authorize Kevin to sign the MOU, Melody 2nded, Kevin and Melody voted yes, Judy voted no.

Mr. Hooke, TimberHomes Vermont, had emailed a contract for design and planning prior to the grant decision to provide a more accurate estimate of the cost of the frame and construction. He wanted \$1,000 as a down payment on that contract. After brief discussion and Board reluctance to sign the contract as the grant had not yet been applied for or approved, Melody donated the \$1,000 and asked that the contract be re-drafted to her and not with the town.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Next meeting is September 12, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar

Select Board Assistant.

Please note that this meeting followed the Recreation Committee which met 5:30 – 6:15, the Community Fund Board 6:00- 7:00 (in the Old Fire House), and the Equity and Inclusion Committee 6:30-6:45, which all met to write letters of support and/or provide funding.