

The **TUNBRIDGE** Quarterly

**News and information
from your town offices and
local volunteer efforts.**



January 1, 2021
issue #63

Tunbridge Select Board

Gary Mullen, Chair (802-889-3323, barn or 802-889-3242, house or theflyingfarmer29@gmail.com)

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair (802-272-6108, cell or 802-728-3390, shop or farmallfix@yahoo.com)

John O'Brien, Clerk (802-889-3474 or bellwetherfilms@yahoo.com)

Wendy Palthey, Administrative Assistant,
(802-889-3565 or tunbridge.adm.assist@gmail.com)

With Governor Scott extending the State of Emergency through January 15th, we are now approaching 300 days of weirdness, pandemic fatigue, economic hardships, mental health challenges, and no smiles (Masks are essential, but we can't wait until we can see everybody's whole face again!). As a town, Tunbridge has done a good job navigating a responsible response to COVID, but it's an on-going balancing act between safety first and not making residents' lives painfully inconvenient (like a 30 minute wait to get into the Dump). All along, we have deferred to the Governor and Dr. Levine on legal requirements and health recommendations; as a municipal body, our job is to follow state guidelines and statutes and to use common sense at the local level. With the first round of vaccines being issued to Vermont's essential workers and most vulnerable, we can start to contemplate a "post" COVID future, but getting from now to then may be the toughest stretch of all. Stay safe, Tunbridge!

For the past month, the Selectboard has been honing a budget for the Fiscal Year 2021/2022, which begins on July 1, 2021. We've decided to level fund most line items in the upcoming fiscal year. Our current budget is proving accurate, meaning our municipal offices and road crew have efficiently spent the monies allocated to them and provided the services we expect from them. In the middle of a pandemic, this hasn't been easy, but the business of Tunbridge has, for the most part, kept calm and carried on.

There have been a lot questions about Town Meeting. How will it work this year with the pandemic and expected continuation of the State of Emergency? The Selectboard has discussed the possibility of postponing the meeting until we could do it outside, maybe on a Saturday in May. We would like to avoid a Zoom Town Meeting or Australian ballots for elected officials and budgets; we feel an "in-person" Town Meeting, with questions and discussions from the "floor," is important and inclusive, but, that said, we will look to guidance from the state, and, at this point, all options are open. Stay tuned!

In response to a petition signed by approximately 10% of the town's voters, the Selectboard has okayed a special Tunbridge vote on the

future of our First Branch Unified (School) District. There will be an informational meeting on Monday, January 4th, followed by the vote, at the Town Hall, on Saturday, January 9th.

With much tenacity--not to mention a heckofalotta dotting of “i”s and crossing of “t”s—our Emergency Management Director, Brenda Field, Auditor & Health Officer, Betsy Race, and Treasurer, Becky Hoyt, successfully lassoed a State LGER (Local Government Emergency Reimbursement) grant that reimburses Tunbridge for past and on-going COVID response expenses. Our grant-writing team’s heavy lift saved Tunbridge taxpayers over \$20,000!

The essential workers down Rec Road—our Road Crew—are ready to do battle with Old Man Winter. Tunbridge has its version of the three pyramids of Giza: there’s one of sand, one of gravel and one of salt. Inside the Town Garage, the Road Crew has settled in to wearing masks and washing hands as much as surgeons or endocrinologists—before they head out to treat the disorders and conditions of our Class 3 roads. Fingers crossed that they all stay healthy—it’s easier for an oversized box truck to fit through a covered bridge than it is to find a CDL-certified substitute driver in the middle of January (no doubt in the middle of a blizzard).

In employee news, the Selectboard hired Monarch Hill’s green thumb, Wendy Palthey (of Tunbridge Hill Farm), as our new Administrative Assistant. Whether it’s growing garlic or broccolini, or setting agendas or recording minutes, Wendy is accomplished at everything she does.

Transfer Station Supervisor, Mike Barnaby, has been counting cars at the Dump. The average Saturday is about 94. Wednesdays are about 35. With Wednesday’s option thinning out Saturday’s bottleneck, the Selectboard will keep the midweek slot, 3-6 PM, going through at least the end of January. And remember, if you go to the Dump, wear a mask, and keep the distance of a moldy old couch--that’s been a scratching post for the cats and a trampoline for the kids--between yourself and your neighbor.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602 zugglasstudio@gmail.com

The deadline dates for TQ entries are the 15th of December, March, June and September. Entries are printed as received and only edited for typos. My apologies for any mistakes I miss or make! Feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or suggestions.

Current and past issues of the TQ are always available online at <http://tunbridgevt.org/tunbridge-quarterly/>

Tunbridge Central School

Michael Livingston, Principal 889-3310 mlivingston@wrvsu.org

Welcome from the Tunbridge Central School.

There is so much to share with you and all of it feels incredibly significant, particularly given our current circumstances.

I'd like to begin by acknowledging all of the great work from the faculty and staff at TCS. As much as it might feel "normal" to conduct regular school business five days a week from 8 to 3 our circumstances are far, far from normal. Most schools in the country are not operating at anything close to a traditional school week. To do so requires a tremendous amount of energy, love, focus, and attention. Thank you TCS faculty and staff. Getting to know you has been an absolute pleasure.

Parents and Guardians, please know that your generous acknowledgment on behalf of the faculty and staff in the final days leading up to our winter holidays was greatly appreciated. It was nothing short of an outpouring of love. Thank you.

As challenging as our situation is, I am thrilled to report that the school year has been a huge success. I know that Parents and Guardians as well as many members of the TCS community who have volunteered on a regular basis over the years greatly miss taking part in school activities. Please know, we miss you and look forward to a time, in the not too distant future, when we can meet up again at school. In the meantime, morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up serve as a tremendous opportunity to connect with you, however briefly, and it really helps us set the tone in such a positive way each day.

I wish you could be with me as I interact with both the adults and children at school. There is so much to celebrate. Whether it's greeting the children in the morning with music, dancing, and joyous heartfelt delight, or the fabulous claymation work they're doing in art, or the celebration of book giving (and wrapping) the week before vacation where children were given the opportunity to select multiple volumes for themselves and their families, or the festive way the children have helped decorate the school, both inside and out, or our holiday giving tree in the entryway at school which has been festooned with the loveliest and most thoughtful gifts for us to distribute to our community, our caroling to seniors in our community, your children have been both engaged and involved.

There is one scene, in particular, that I'd like to paint for you. One remarkably beautiful, and relatively warm and very sunny December afternoon, I was invited to attend a gathering of middle school students on the

hillside above campus overlooking our gorgeous valley. Students were actively involved in a number of outdoor activities including cooking potatoes and venison over an outdoor fire pit constructed by a TCS parent from discarded truck rims. The children were completely engaged in their work, absorbed in their task and attentive to each-other. I remember reflecting to the four students gathered around the fire pit that there were very, very few students in our country engaged in such authentic work, and in such a beautiful place. They agreed! I returned to my office for yet another video call and was very pleasantly surprised when those same students arrived 30 minutes later with the most perfectly cooked potatoes and venison I have ever eaten!

We live, and work, together in a truly unique setting and environment. In this tremendously challenging time let's take a moment to pause and celebrate the beauty of this place and of our children.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve your community. As much as I've admired and respected you all from a short distance in the past, my affection for your town, for all of you, and in particular for your children, has only grown.

With great respect and admiration,

Michael Livingston - Principal Tunbridge Central School

Tunbridge Conservation Commission

Chair: Betsy Gaiser 763-2288, betsygaiser@gmail.com

Aaron Weed, Susan Salster, Maureen McCullough,
Ellen Hosford, Eliza Minnucci

The Tunbridge Conservation Commission meets at 6:30pm on the third Monday of the month, usually at the library. Our work is to study the natural resources of Tunbridge, provide informal council to the Selectboard, and develop educational activities for the public. We promote citizen science projects, and aim to develop engaging events for residents. Last winter we had a blast with the Biggest Trees Contest, and we have some fun ideas for the seasons ahead as well.

You can follow us on facebook, on instagram @TunbridgeConservation, or note that our meeting agenda and minutes are posted on the town website. We would be happy to be joined by a few new members in 2021, and are particularly interested in having a high-school student join us. We'd love to hear from you if you are interested.

Tunbridge Board of Listers

Dan Ruddell, Helen O'Donnell, Jola Brock 889-3571

lister@tunbridge.biz

Let's hope that 2021 will be an easier year than 2020! Due to precautions regarding COVID-19, office routines have been significantly altered. Email is probably the most reliable way to reach us, but we do all we can to respond to phone messages as well. Thank you for your patience as we navigate these new routines.

With the calendar year rapidly closing, the listers are finalizing the Grand List for 2020 while simultaneously helping our Treasurer prepare and send a second tax bill to homestead property owners. By mid-Jan. 2021 we will send our finalized Grand List to the state, and in early February we will file a certificate indicating "no suits or appeals pending", which officially closes the Grand List for 2020.

Because the school budget was voted down twice, we did not receive a final Homestead Education tax rate (set through Act 60 education funding formulas, <https://tax.vermont.gov/education-tax-rates>) until December. Non-residents were billed once (that rate was already set) and will not receive a second bill. Homestead filers received an Interim Tax bill due on November 1, and the remainder will be billed in a follow-up that you will have received by the time you read this. That will be due February 1, 2021. We have done all we can to make the follow-up bill clear, but feel free to drop a note or give a call if there are questions.

Grand List changes over the fall involve late-filed homestead declarations, and we also make every effort to remedy any Errors and Omissions that have come to our attention. These are solely Errors and Omissions; we are already working on preparing next year's Grand List. Our deadline for assessing the "as is" status of a property for the 2021 Grand List is on or before April 1, 2021. Any transfers we receive on April 2nd go on the 2022 Grand List. We may continue to look at properties but consider the status as of April 1. Changes of appraisal are notified in early June, with opportunities to grieve in July.

We also continue to work with the state to validate all our Current Use information (Tunbridge currently has 213 enrolled parcels, the highest number of parcels of any town in the state). Properties enrolled in the Agriculture (rather than Forestry) program are now required to CERTIFY YOUR PROPERTY ANNUALLY (<https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/current-use/certification>).

In late Dec. 2020 (or early Jan. 2021) the state tax department will send us the certified results of a statewide sales equalization study. "In order

to treat all municipalities fairly throughout the state, grand lists are evaluated and adjusted annually to bring each municipality's grand list to fair market value. The adjustment is made through the equalization study."

For Tunbridge the equalization study of December 2019 indicated a Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) of 102.23% (down from the previous 105.97%) and our COD (Coefficient of Dispersion) at 16.34% (up from 13.23%). The CLA helps equalize sales values across towns; the COD is a measure of equity within the town. A COD of less than 10% is considered indicative of a high degree of equity within town. We are mandated to do a town-wide reappraisal if our CLA drops below 85% or exceeds 115%, or our COD exceeds 20%.

The goal is always to set a fair market value for each property in town and ensure that the costs of living and working here are borne as equitably as possible across the town and across the state. (Ask yourself, "what do I think I could sell my property for on the open market?")

We have sadly received Jola O'Donnell's resignation and wish to thank her for her service to the Town. Her 3-year term as lister will be up to fill by vote at Town Meeting, usually in March; keep an eye out for potential COVID-driven changes of date and format for this year's Town Meeting.

We are currently in our southwest quarter rotational visits. We are only doing outside inspections, with COVID-19 safety precautions in mind. For properties that may have inside changes we will need to make phone calls to get accurate data. We always appreciate notice if you have significant changes.

An important reminder when filing your taxes: business use/rental use is declared on your homestead declaration (HS-122); remember to report any changes in use on this form. If you no longer declare such use please notify us, as this portion is billed at a non-residential rate.

Tunbridge Library

Hours: Mon, Wed, & Fri 3-7; Sat 9-Noon

Jean Wolfe, Librarian 889-9404

Fern Strong, ArtSpace Coordinator, 860-986-0507; redbarnrugs2@yahoo.com

Call or email us for all your curbside orders. You may have noticed we have many of our new books displayed in the windows and on rolling carts viewable through our front window, to assist you in finding your next great read while our doors are closed.

Send an email to tunbridgelibrary@gmail.com to be added to the weekly email list for updates of all the creative library offerings.

Tunbridge Town Clerk

Mariah Cilley - 889-5521 tctunbridge@live.com

Hours: Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the office is closed to the public. The Town Clerk can be reached via phone or email Monday- Friday 8 - 3.

Happy New Year Tunbridge folks! I know that this past year has been a doozy for everyone, and I am hoping that this new year will give us all a fresh slate to make 2021 a wonderful one! I am still learning the Town Clerk ropes, and have been juggling working from home and from the office while practicing our best safety guidelines given to us by Governor Scott in order to keep our wonderful village safe. On a daily basis I am fielding phone calls, recording land records, vital records, preparing for the annual Town Meeting, updating our voter registration lists, posting warnings for various meetings, posting property, notarizing documents, getting ready for our School District Dissolution Vote and many other miscellaneous things all the while wrangling a busy toddler- better known as our Assistant Town Clerk!

Fortunately for me, tax matters are not within my job description, so questions related to tax payments, bills, etc. are best answered by Becky Hoyt, our town Treasurer. She can be reached at 889-3571.

If you would like to reserve the Town Hall for an event, please call Judy Howe at 889-3487. She maintains the reservation book, reservation contracts, and can answer any other particulars that you may need to know.

Contact information for all Town Officers is posted on the Tunbridge website- www.tunbridgevt.org. Our town website has a plethora of information about the Town, Selectboard minutes, updates from various officials, the latest COVID-19 information and more.

Town Meeting should be coming around the corner as well. Once again, COVID has thrown a wrench in our plans and right now we do not have a date set for Town Meeting as we are trying to decide what the best course of action is to keep everyone safe and compliant. Our local State Rep. and Selectboard member John O'Brien informed me that the State is working on drafting a bill to hopefully be passed the first of this year to allow for flexibility on Town Meeting, whether that be via Zoom and voting by Australian Ballot or postponing until it is safer. I will keep you all posted as soon as I learn what our next steps are!

Dog Licensing for 2021 will begin on January 1st. Deadline for licensing is April 1, 2021. If your dog(s) is/are due for a rabies vaccine prior to April 1st, a license cannot be issued until an updated rabies certificate has been received by the Clerk. Due to COVID, unfortunately as of now there are no rabies clinics. Cost per license is \$9.00 spayed/neutered; \$13.00 for non-spayed/neutered. You may get dog licenses at the Town Clerks Office, or by sending payment, rabies certificates, and return address by mail.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns or to just say hello! I am here to help and love to meet everyone who I share this wonderful town with! Stay Safe, Mariah (+ Davis!)

Tunbridge Civic Club

Elaine Howe, President 889-5560

Maxine Young, Secretary 763-8274 - youngvt@myfairpoint.net

The Tunbridge Civic Club annual meeting was held in October.

The election of officers was held and the motion to keep the same slate of officers was passed. Officers are President, Elaine Howe; Vice-President, Butch Howe; Secretary, Maxine Young; and Treasurer, Jory Innes. Directors are Martin Young, Jr., and Donna Alden Locke.

We are sorry to say that it was voted to cancel the 2021 show (which would have been held March 12 and 13, 2021). This action was taken due to Covid and the situation in Vermont and the country.

There was some discussion of having a show later in the year (July or August). We will wait to see what happens with the Covid situation and perhaps have a planning committee later in the year.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jamie Bradford 889-3478

The Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department has had a quiet fall for community events due to Covid-19. October was fire prevention month and the department would like to remind everyone that while preparing for the winter months some important steps that could prevent accidental fires is to check your smoke detectors, have your chimneys cleaned and your furnaces serviced. In addition to these safety measures the Firefighters urge all families to make an exit plan and practice fire safety at home.

The Fire Departments Annual Meeting is typically held on the second Thursday in March at 6:00 p.m. at the Tunbridge Town Hall. At this event we have a potluck dinner beginning at 6:00 p.m. followed by the meeting that begins at 7:00 p.m. Unfortunately due to Covid-19 this meeting will be postponed until Thursday May 13, 2020 in the hopes for an outdoor event. We will send out communications regarding times and food options at a later date. All are welcome to attend. We are looking for community members to serve as trustees on the board, if this something that you would be interested in or would like more information about please email tunbridge.fire@gmail.com in advance or attend the annual meeting.

The Fire Department is always welcoming new Volunteer Fire Fighters. If you are interested in joining or would like to receive information about joining the Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department please email Tunbridge.fire@gmail.com for more information. Currently the department has suspended all in person meetings. All meetings are held via Zoom every Thursday evening @ 7:00pm.

Tunbridge Grange # 384

Rosemary Distel 802-272-2235

Tunbridge Grange Mid-Winter 2020 News:

The Grange had a 2nd “drive-up” dinner on October 10. We had more interest than anticipated and unfortunately had to turn away some folks who hadn’t previously reserved meals. I think this is one of the first times which that has happened, so sorry to those who missed out on a nice ham & bean dinner!

The Grange also sponsored some fun events in the local town communities with some house decorating contests – first was a Halloween “Spooky” Spirit house decorating (Mary Roberts favorite holiday!) and a December Holiday Spirit decoration contest. Prizes were awarded for the top three as judged by a panel of unbiased folks!

We are all excited about the COVID-19 vaccinations coming to Vermont this spring, but we aren’t sure when we will be able to host our normal inside activities such as winter bingo or Grange Suppers. Please stay tuned to updates from the Grange and we hope to see you all in late spring/early summer! Everyone stay safe and let’s hope for a wonderful New Year in 2021!

The Grange supports our local community (like families in need or the school), so please consider joining the Grange so we can continue to keep this worthy organization going.

For more information, contact Marilyn (Mert) Vesper 889-5595.

Tunbridge Walking Group

Theresa FitzGerald - ntfitzy@gmail.com

The Tunbridge Walking Group began in 2011 with a small group of people who committed to walking together each week for fresh air and exercise. It’s now been 10 years and the group has grown in number and in new trails discovered.

During the past months of 2020, the friendship and support of the walkers has proven to be both physically and emotionally up-lifting.

Typically a walk is about an hour to an hour and a half duration, consisting of 3-4 mile loops or straight walks on dirt roads, old roads and trails. There is a core group of walkers who are familiar with the various routes, however many walkers join us occasionally as time and seasons allow.

Masks are currently being worn during walks to ensure the safety of all. In addition, the group adheres to the COVID guidelines for group size and household restrictions. If you wish to receive weekly notifications from the Tunbridge Walking Group please contact Theresa at the above e-mail. when sessions resume.

Friends of The Tunbridge World's Fair (FTWF)

Deb Mullen - 889-9406

Happy Holidays!

Because of the Covid virus we have not been meeting in 2020. We hope to be back on schedule in 2021, with our first meeting in May. We are working with Fair Directors on a fundraiser to raise money to help cover the cost of a new building on the site of the former "Brooksies" building. A cement pad has been completed and is ready for construction in the spring.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation you can do so by mailing it to: FWF, PO Box 159, Tunbridge VT 05077. You can also purchase a membership for yourself or as a gift at the same address. Single membership is \$25.00 per year. Call 802-889-9406 for more information.

Tunbridge Historical Society

Mick Maguire, 889-5612

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic the Tunbridge Historical Society has canceled meetings into 2021. For information regarding future meetings, please check our Facebook page.

Collections (archives and artifacts) – Committee members began the inventory process of items in archives located in the library basement prior to the library's closing and have now resumed on a very limited basis observing all the COVID-19 protocols. Some Tunbridge materials have been acquired from a long time resident and will be reviewed and inventoried.

Programming - Unfortunately, we can not predict when we will be able to host community events, but we will continue to interact through social media.

Fred Pond has turned the treasurer's role over to Izzy Provoncha. We thank Fred for his dedication and expertise as treasurer. He will continue to share his vast knowledge of Tunbridge history through our collection documentation. Welcome aboard, Izzy. We look forward to input and participation by all. Please contact any of the officers to offer assistance, ideas.

President Emeritus - Euclid Farnham

Mick Maguire, president@tunbridgehistoricalsociety.org

Fern Strong, vicepresident@tunbridgehistoricalsociety.org

Elaine Howe, secretary@tunbridgehistoricalsociety.org

Fred Pond, treasurer@tunbridgehistoricalsociety.org

The Tunbridge Church

Kay Jorgensen, 889-9828, thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com.

The Tunbridge Church appreciates the support given to its Tunbridge Community Food Shelf, which served two dozen families before Christmas. Sue Barnaby leads the annual Christmas box project. The boxes included boneless turkey, potatoes, crescent rolls, butter, cheese, oranges, cranberry sauce and breakfast pancake mix, sausage and eggs.

Food donations included potatoes from the Amodeo family, oranges given by the Zaroogian family and commodities from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. In addition to donated funds Santa had some helpers. They included the Bogardus family, Laura DeCapua and family, Carley Howe, Maureen Moriarty, Jean Parker and Jena Young and family.

Popular gifts included toys, hats, mittens, games and toiletries such as toothbrushes, toothpaste and shaving cream. Librarian Elaine Howe took the books, hats and mittens that were left to the school.

Helping Sue with setup, cleanup and logistics were Gordie Barnaby, Nancy Chapman, Jean Parker and daughters Amy Bogardus and Melissa Lamson and Margaret Rogers. Family representatives were given specific times to visit the Parish House. Their temperatures were taken and hands sanitized at the front door before they looked at gift items in the parlor and main room, then left with food boxes by the back door.

Because of the Covid virus young people at Tunbridge Central School and Clever Clovers 4-H Club could not help with their box wrapping and decorated cookies as they usually do.

The church's community services, especially for seniors and homebound residents, included deliveries of Thanksgiving bags with fruit, cheese, crackers, cocoa mix and baked goods and pre-Christmas poinsettia plants and loaves of banana bread and tea.

We hope residents enjoyed seeing the church/barn quilt and the colors and lights from the Christmas tree in the church garden, Advent candles on the railing, the banners for Hope, Peace, Joy and Love and the Moravian star hanging at the creche.

The church also sponsored a "reverse calendar," an Advent Calendar of Kindness, during which time food items were set aside daily for donation to the food shelf. A Service of Light, a time for reflection on the longest night, Dec. 21, was shared by email. An outdoor Christmas Eve service was scheduled, weather permitting.

Brief outdoor Sunday services were held from Nov. 29 through December. There will be one more in front of the church on Jan. 3. The Rev. Dr. Jenny Cook will lead an Epiphany service, marking the period after Jesus's birth and visit by the Wise Men.

Pastor Jenny will then resume emailing midweek messages and Sunday worship services complete with links to YouTube music. Everyone is welcome to join the email list, just send your address to thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com.

Donations to the food shelf may be sent to Mary Fisk, PO Box 12, Tunbridge VT 05077. The Community Food Shelf is staffed by volunteers on Fridays from 4-6 p.m. at the Parish House. The church welcomes donations in support of its other programs at PO Box 270, Tunbridge VT 05077.

Tunbridge Town Treasurer

Rebecca Hoyt - 889-3571 treasurer@tunbridge.biz

We made it to 2021! 2020 has proven to be a very challenging year for the treasurer's office. With that said I am very thankful to everyone that worked with me to get the first round of taxes paid. It was a complicated process and I am sure it was confusing to residents and I appreciate everyone that worked through it and got their first bill paid.

The second bills should have arrived to you already. If you have not seen your bill and you think you should have one, please let me know. I apologize for the delay in getting the second bills out the door. The paper that we normally use for tax bills proved more difficult than expected to acquire with Covid problems at the printer.

I just want to take a second to explain the second bill. This bill is your official bill. This is the bill that you will want to look at when filling out income tax returns as well as when you are filling out your 2021 homestead declaration. The second bill has a few new lines on the payment stub that will allow you to see what you have already paid and what is due currently. If you have any questions about this please let me know.

I also want to remind you that filing your homestead should be done every year when you file your income taxes and that to avoid any late filing fees it MUST be done by April 15th. If you are going to extend your deadline for your income taxes you still need to declare your homestead and then amend this when you do file your income taxes. If you have any questions please reach out to me.

Lastly the second bills are due on Feb. 1st. Thank you to everyone for being understanding during this process and I wish you all a very Happy New Year. I have many hopes that this year will be a better year!

Alliance for Vermont Communities

Michael Sacca - 889-3210 mfsacca@sover.net

The AVC is continuing its mission to protect working farms, forests and communities of central Vermont and to promote responsible development that will sustain the rural heritage and values for present and future generations. Check out www.alliancevermont.org for the latest information.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Pat Howe, Treasurer – 889-5512 **For TNH services call 889-3437**

Mike O'Donnell, President Jory Innes, Vice President

Board members: Jory Innes, Linda B Howe, Linda Lazaroff, Mike O'Donnell, Pat Howe, Sarah Priestap Porter, David Wolfe (emeritus)

If you see Maxine Young be sure to thank her for her many hours devoted to TNH as a board member and group secretary. TNH will miss her enthusiasm and leadership and wish her all the best in her new home.

If you or someone you know in Tunbridge is in need of assistance such as a pick up of groceries, prescriptions, or library books call Neighbors and we will do our best to help. We can help with wood stacking, snow shoveling and other tasks where physical distancing can be maintained. Due to COVID restrictions we are unable to provide rides to doctor and dental appointments until it is deemed safe to do so for our volunteers and clients.

Our kindest thoughts go out to everyone. Please stay safe and take care of yourself and loved ones.

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Laura Ginsburg - 889-3386 lauralee.ginsburg@gmail.com

The Planning Commission is grateful for all Tunbridge residents who have been keeping us safe over the past ten months including the Selectboard, road crew, emergency management team, school teachers, fire department, and town officials.

The PC has been busy meeting virtually to finalize the Hazard Mitigation Plan and a refresh of the Town Plan. The Hazard Mitigation plan has been accepted by the state and FEMA, meaning that our reimbursement rate after a federally declared disaster is higher, almost 40% greater than if we did not have a plan. The Town Plan refresh went well; thanks to all who attended meetings and provided comments. As of this writing, the final edits are being made to the Town Plan and the Selectboard will receive it for adoption early in 2021.

Now that all of this required plan development is behind us, we are excited to dive into learning and opportunities for engagement. We'd like to reinvigorate the Agriculture Committee, host educational sessions to learn about innovative strategies used by other towns, and bring together all town committees/commissions to move forward together in envisioning the future of our community. If you would like to join the Planning Commission, we would welcome new members who are eager to learn about the town and efforts we can undertake to support our community. Feel free to email with questions and sign yourself up!

ECFiber

(East-Central Vermont Community Fiber-Optic Network)

Henry Swayze 603-667-8932, Amy Frost, Richard Dybvig
ECF office - 763-2262 info@ecfiber.net www.ecfiber.net

All that fiber that has been hung on poles for 12-18 months is now connected to the Internet and ready for customer service. Three or more installation crews are at work to hook those who have signed up for service. They are flat out as a great many miles of roads have come online in a short period of time. If you want to make sure you are in the que resubmit a request for service either on line: ecfiber.net or call the office: (802) 763-2262. If your power comes into your house through an underground conduit, call the office to learn about making a way for fiber to get into your house. The ground is freezing up so act now if you want service before spring.

Thanks to all who have requested service and have been so patient. Your community owned fiber to the home project has connected a record breaking number of customers this year and has led the way for many new community owned projects to follow.

Intelligence Based Policing

VSP barracks 802-234-9933 recorded

Email DPS.VSPROYALTONIBP@VERMONT.GOV

There is little change in our group status since the last Tunbridge Quarterly, but the group's original cause is still the same. We support the Vermont State Police in their efforts to keep us all safe. Despite the pandemic, VSP are busier than ever. You have only to listen to the local media or read the newspapers to see all the issues they are facing. There seems to have been no decrease in the use of drugs, quite the opposite, and all forms of abuse seem to be increasing as well. Please feel you can alert them to any problems you see. "If You See Something, Say Something".

Please stay safe and well, during this unusual time and continue to support the VSP.

Tunbridge Town Website

Geoff Hansen, 802-889-3373, or info@geoffhansen.com

Tunbridge's town website is a timely resource for information from the Town Clerk, board meetings, upcoming events and past issues of the Tunbridge Quarterly. The selectboard's recent remote meetings are also recorded and can be found on the Agendas and Minutes page. Please let us know if there's something you would like to see listed or have any questions.

First Branch Ambulance

Judy Tucker - 889-3305

We would like to give our thanks to Linda Kuban for her dedication, community service and activism for the past 35 years. As the leader of the First Branch Ambulance, Linda has worked doggedly to bring our towns quality emergency care. At our last board meeting Linda announced her retirement effective Jan.2021. We will miss her commitment and dedication and wish her well as she begins her retirement. Those of you who have been on the receiving end of Linda and FBA care who would like to acknowledge her service feel free to send a card to her at the Chelsea FBA office.

We are all feeling the effects of isolation, loneliness and frustration due to the continued presence of Covid. The pressures from job and food insecurities, the stress of home schooling and the fear of the unknown wear heavily. If you or someone you know needs help during this time please reach out for help. The Clara Martin Center phone number is 728-4466. If you are having difficulty and need help with addiction please call 1-855-955-1196. For feelings of self harm please call 1-800-273-8255. You can call 211 anywhere in Vermont to get help with referrals. FBA is always here for you at anytime for any emergency need.