

Vienna Record



Volume 25 Issue 2

April/May 2022



Lisa Goucher, Lecturer of Mill Stream Grange in Vienna, delivered dictionaries to the Cape Cod Hill School in New Sharon on February 3.

There are 28 students in the 3rd grade this year, and all were quite happy to receive their very own dictionary. Happy learning, kids!

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Selectmen's Minutes

February 1, 2022

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Kerry Casey

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant #3 (\$95,396.26) and Warrant #25C (18,910.41).
4. The selectmen finished the Town Warrant.
5. The Town Report will go to the printer by the end of the week.
6. The town will be purchasing an additional 500 yards of sand and 60 tons of salt.
7. The selectmen reviewed all multi-year contracts.

8. Meeting adjourned.

February 8, 2022

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Laura Day Rose, Cory Searles, Diane & Scott Lailerte

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Laura Day Rose reported the property transfer of the property known as "The Blueberry Field" on Vienna Mountain has been completed.
4. Cory Searles asked about building permits. He will be building a new garage and house this summer.

Selectmen's Minutes (continued)

5. Diane and Scott Lailerte from Riverside Disposal discussed bulky pickup. The last couple of years this has been abused. Riverside Disposal proposed ending bulky pickup in Vienna. The selectboard and Riverside compromised. There will be limits placed on the amount of trash taken by each residency. The total number of bulky pickups will be decreased from 3 to 2.
6. The Wiles Funeral Home called to let the selectboard know a resident passed away at their home last week with no known relatives.
7. Meeting adjourned.

February 15, 2022

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Kerry Casey

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant #4 (\$23, 232.28).
4. Laura conducted a broadband meeting at the Vienna Community Room/Fire Station.
5. The heat system was not working and will be fixed. Jeff and Chris joined Laura at the broadband meeting.
6. Meeting adjourned.

February 22, 2022

The board of selectmen did not meet as scheduled due to the icy road conditions.

March 1, 2022

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Debbie Burns, Felicia Audet, Alan Williams, Kerry Casey

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant #5 (\$36,948.46).
4. The heat system has been repaired.
5. The selectmen discussed the Broadband Meeting that was held on March 15, 2022 at the Vienna Community Building. All agreed it went well and was well attended. A copy of the meeting along with a question/answer section are on the town website.
6. [The Vienna Town Website](#) is a wonderful site to get all up to date information. Trash schedules, date

changes due to weather or holidays, and canceled meetings can be found on the website. We encourage residents to check it often as this is the platform that will be used to convey important information.

7. A resident came in to discuss recent land transfers.
8. Meeting adjourned.

March 8, 2022

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Jim Anderberg, Ed Lawless, Kerry Casey

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. The select board received an update from the broadband committee.
4. The selectboard entered into an executive session at 6:45p.m. until 7:45p.m.
5. Meeting adjourned.

March 15, 2022

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Kerry Casey, James Meader, Cathy Meader

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant #6 (\$18,913.61).
4. Meeting adjourned.

March 22, 2022

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Julie Green, Mike Church, Troy Bean.

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. A resident dropped off a Homestead Exemption Form.
4. Assistant Chief Church checked on the status of a bill.
5. Troy Bean discussed a piece of land that he purchased in 2020. The Kennebec County Registry of Deeds has not sent the paperwork.
6. Meeting adjourned.

March 29, 2022

No Selectmen's meeting as it is the 5th Tuesday of the month.

Planning Board Minutes

January 26, 2022

The meeting convened at 7:00 PM at the Town House. Regular members present were Waine Whittier, Creston Gaither, and Tim Bickford; also present was Maggie Davis.

The Board had cancelled its December 2021 meeting due to severe weather. Minutes of the Board's November 24, 2021 meeting were read and accepted.

Maggie and Tim Davis are buying Lot 5 in the recently approved Stream Road Subdivision; it abuts their existing house lot. They are wondering about the status of the two parcels and whether setback requirements will apply to the common boundary between these two parcels once they acquire Lot 5. Maggie was advised that under long-standing Town policy the lots will be merged into one for property tax purposes and that no setback requirements will apply to the said common boundary.

Several recent inquiries, mostly by email, were then discussed:

The Board discussed an email from Alan Corin regarding land depicted on Map 11 as Lot 26, which he may purchase. It appears that anything he does in any wetlands would have to go through DEP. Portions of the parcel appear to lie within the Limited Residential Shoreland Zone and would thus be subject to certain Shoreland Zoning Ordinance (SZO) requirements; Waine will relay these conclusions to him.

Justin Piquard has bought Lot 3 in Herrin Woods Subdivision, it being shown on Tax Map 11 as Lot 3 - H. He says the septic system is partially built. He is working with Plumbing Inspector John Archard to see how to complete it. Waine has told him that a SSWD permit would be required for a Shoreland Zoning construction permit. Waine has outlined the SZO permitting process for him.

Tyler Nadeau wants to build a house on Mountain Rd., evidently outside of the Shoreland Zone. He says he has a 1989 septic design for a 2 bedroom house. Waine advised him to discuss its current validity with John Archard.

Doug Weisz has acquired 28 Vienna Shores Road, which is shown on Tax Map 10 as Lot 8-W. He would like to update and renovate the existing house on the parcel. Waine has outlined the rules for expansion of non-conforming structures for him.

The proposed New Sharon Solar Installation Ordinance was reviewed briefly. It was agreed to table this matter until the entire Board is present.

Waine will miss the February meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Planning Board Minutes (continued)

February 23, 2022

The meeting convened at 7:00 PM at the Town House. Regular members present were Alan Williams, Creston Gaither, Ed Lawless and Tim Bickford; also present was Corey Searles. Alan was elected Acting Chairman as Waine Whittier was absent. Minutes of the January 26 meeting were read and accepted. Corey Searles was given a Notification of Construction permit for a garage.

Mark McGuire's email inquiry of February 1 regarding multiple structures on a single lot was discussed. It was agreed that if anything this is a legal question, and that the Board sees no problem in what he has described. Creston will email him to this effect.

Bob Nurse appeared and would like to build a garage within 25 feet of a protected stream, similar to what he proposed at his April 2021 meeting with the Board. He was advised that this would require a variance, and that the Planning Board cannot issue one and that he could pursue getting one with the Board of Appeals. In order to move the Appeals process along, it was voted 4 - 0 to formally deny him a permit for the garage due to the setback issue. Creston will send him a letter to this effect.

Mark Rains appeared; he says that Webber Brook, a protected stream, runs through his property. He was advised that any new structure near the brook will require a permit and must be at least 75 feet from the brook. Stream Protection District definitions in the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance were outlined informally.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.



Creston Gaither, secretary

From the Health Officer

COVID19's Next Tricks?

March 25, 2022

Dan Onion, MD, MPH

Mt. Vernon/Vienna/Fayette Health Officer

293-2076; dkonion@gmail.com

The current Covid Omicron variant surge does seem to be in our rearview mirror now. Maine has just gone under 100 hospitalized patients daily for the last 3 days; but before you throw your masks to the wind and forget about distancing, let me offer some advice. Here are two cautions you might consider.

First, we need to watch out that the current disease incidence and resulting hospitalizations improvements in Maine are going to stay down. They probably will, at least from the current variant. But European countries are documenting a new variant, Omicron A2, this past month, which is increasingly prevalent there. It has been documented in the US, but none so far found in Maine, according to CDC director, Dr. Shah. However, it is likely that it is present, or will be soon. European reports suggest that it is more infectious than the original, the Delta, as well as the first Omicron variants. On the good side, our 3 available vaccine types, especially the Moderna and Pfizer 2-shot, RNA types, as well as natural infections caused by earlier variants appear quite effective in preventing symptomatic disease, including that which requires hospitalization and ICU care. That's all good, especially since Maine has one of the highest immunization rates, 77% if you include children under 5 who can't yet be immunized, and nearly 80% if you don't. That is potentially a lot of community immunity, but it clearly isn't enough, since we still have continued community spreading. Dr. Anthony Fauci agrees that this surge is subsiding but predicts the US will see smaller "up-ticks" in the next 6 months, "not big enough to call surges". Hopeful thinking, I'd guess.

Should this variant or others suddenly "uptick" cases, we should be ready to go back to masking, distancing, avoiding indoor crowds, and other precautions, at least for those over 65 and/or those with so-called "co-morbidities". The latter means that such people are on medicines or have diseases that further increase the likelihood of catching covid infection and more likely to have serious disease, require hospitalization, need ICU care, or suffer death, especially if they are not vaccinated. Even if they are fully vaccinated, those risks are still there, although reduced from 20-25% to 6%. Not good if you are on the bad side of those numbers.

When should you "go back" to more precautions? I'd suggest doing so if current hospitalizations double; currently we are at fewer than 100 Covid patients daily in Maine hospitals for several days running. That's what Neighbors Driving Neighbors has decided to do as that volunteer ride service gradually goes back to business as usual in early April, rather than just medical or delivery rides. You can follow hospitalizations by reading the newspapers daily, or here's a URL where you can see graphs like the one below to monitor those numbers yourself on-line: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus/data.shtml> and choose the "hospitalizations" tab on that first page.

From the Health Officer (continued)

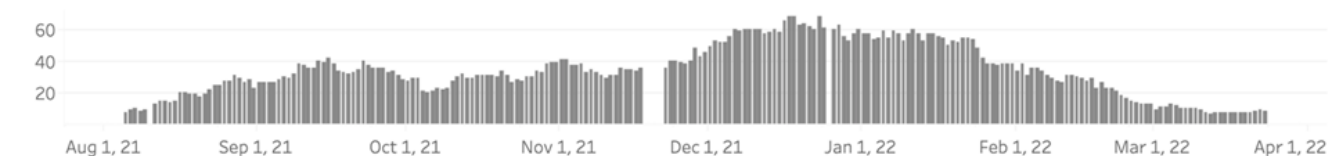
Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients



COVID-19 Patients in Critical Care



COVID-19 Patients on Ventilators



Secondly, be aware that managing Covid is now mostly a do-it-yourself project; if you are exposed and/or have caught it, or are caring for someone who has, you need to know how to manage things yourself, because your case, like many, may be detected by home tests and never reported to the state. There are too many cases to follow AND the new variants have such short incubation periods (2-3 days), there often isn't time for state workers or even your medical clinicians to help you with isolation advice, contact tracing, and triggers of when to seek treatment with antibiotics. Be sure to have a good supply of home tests on hand, masks (KN95s, or N95s) for you and your contacts, a good thermometer, and a home oxygen saturation monitor (less than \$35 in most drug stores) to detect saturations in the low 90%, or worse, high 80%. Low saturations like that tell you that it is time to bail to the hospital ER, ASAP. [Here is where you sign up to get a helpful weekly flier from the Federal CDC](#); it can help you navigate the decisions you'll need to make. Sign up for it now. Hopefully you won't need it.

That all said, I'd urge high risk individuals over age 65-70 and/or with impaired immune systems, vaccinated or unvaccinated, to still mask and distance as best they can, especially indoors, to increase their protection.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Join the volunteer family at the Travis Mills Foundation as we provide an all-inclusive, all-expenses paid, barrier-free experience for post 9/11 recalibrated veterans and their families. Year-round volunteer opportunities in beautiful Rome, Maine, include serving meals, housekeeping, yard work, family and children's activities, fishing, boating, snowshoeing and more! For more info or to fill out an application go to www.travismillsfoundation.org or contact John Romac at john@travismillsfoundation.org.



TRAVIS MILLS
FOUNDATION

From the Town Clerk



Annie Tibbetts: 207-293-2915
 Email: ClerkTax@Viennamaine.org
 346 Townhouse Road, Vienna, Maine

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 5-7pm
 Wednesday 9am-12pm and 12:30-5pm
 Last Saturday of the month 9am-12pm

2022 Municipal Election results were:
 Chris Smith 30
 Kathy Kelley 1 write-in

May 24: RSU #9 Annual Budget Meeting/Vote at the Mt. Blue High School, 6:30pm
June 7: Budget Referendum Vote at the Vienna Community Room/Fire Station, 3pm to 8pm
June 14: State of Maine Primary Election, 8am to 8pm

1st payment for 2022 taxes is due by June 30. Hopefully we get the tax bills out by the last of May.

Happenings at Mill Stream Grange...

April is National Grange month. Mill Stream Grange will hold an Open House on **Saturday, April 23** from 8:30am to 12:30pm to welcome anyone from the public who is interested in finding out about Grange and what we do. Coffee and refreshments will be available. In addition, we will be glad to accept old flags at that time in order to see that they are disposed of properly. Feel free to come on by for a tour of the Hall that used to be the Village schoolhouse. Looking forward to seeing you! FMI call 293-4408 or 293-4960

On **Saturday, May 28**, Mill Stream Grange will host a flea market/bake sale/ book sale from 8 until 1. There will be no charge for vendors or crafters who'd like to set-up for the day. FMI call 293-4408 or 293-4960



Editor's Notes

Advertisements or Personal Announcements

1/8 Page \$8.00/issue or \$45.00/year
 1/4 Page \$14.00/issue or \$45.00/year
 1/2 Page \$26.00/issue or \$150.00/year
 Full Page \$50.00/issue or \$290.00/year
 Make checks payable to the "Town of Vienna"

Send us your photos!

We want your seasonal photos of Vienna!
 viennanewsletter@fairpoint.net

Deadline

Please submit all items or articles for the June/July issue of the *Vienna Record* by **May 25, 2022.**

Format

Submit all items via email as a word document (.doc) or as a .jpg. Please no .pdf or other formats.

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library News



“A library is a place that is a repository of information and gives every citizen equal access to it... It’s a community space. It’s a place of safety, a haven from the world.”

Neil Gaiman

Remember, besides our in-library services and resources (books, audios, videos, a small collection of baking items, an Efficiency Maine monitor, games & puzzles, public access computers and printer), we also provide access to reading materials across the state via interlibrary loan, and your library card also lets you use the statewide Downloadable books library, and Hoopla, a streaming service for ebooks, music, magazines, and videos for folks of all ages. We can still provide curbside service for those who can’t come into the library yet, just call or email us, and we’ll get a bag of materials ready for you.

Some basic “housekeeping” – if you have any changes for your address, email, or phone in the past few years, please let us know so we can update our records at the library!

April Take&Makes: The theme for this month’s Take&Make kits for children will be Easter! Call or email us, or send us a private message on our Facebook page, and let us know how many kits your household would like. The kits will be ready for pickup before April 16, at the library. Alice will get a story video up on our Facebook page, too!

Career Center consultant Marc Libby has been coming to the library on Wednesday mornings, 10AM -12Noon for the past couple of weeks, and will continue through the first couple of Wednesdays in April. Please feel free to stop in the library on Wednesday mornings between 10-12 to ask about ideas like writing cover letters, doing job searches, or other questions about taking the next steps towards employment. You can also call Marc to set up an appointment, at 207-707-0228. You can look at the Career Center website here: <https://www.mainecareercenter.gov/>

The **bicycle maintenance** workshop we hosted with the Bicycle Coalition of Maine last summer was quite a hit, and their helpful tips were so appreciated. They have already been planning another summer of workshops, and will do a follow-up maintenance program at our library on May 2, from 2:30-4:30 (and then they will hop over to Readfield library from 5-7pm). They hope to focus a bit on post-winter tune up tips. We’ll post further information on our Facebook page later in the month!

It is the time of year when we each become more aware of, and involved in, our local environment as all the aspects of life wake up and start moving about. Remember we have lots of adult and children’s books on gardening, bird identification, and other aspects of learning about our ecosystems (tree identification, vernal pools, amphibians, and more). You can also look at various websites to learn more about the life all around us:

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library News

- The Cornell lab (birds): <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/how-to-learn-bird-songs-and-calls/>
- PBS (frogs): <https://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/frogs-the-thin-green-line-additional-web-resources/4855>
- Northwood Frog Call Phenology (audio infographic of frog calls): <https://bluesyemre.com/2020/05/18/northwoods-frog-call-phenology-cable-natural-history-museum/>
- Trees (for kids): https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/projects/fall_foliage/kids/treeguide.html

Two gardening websites, with plenty of resources and expertise:

- Mofga: <https://www.mofga.org/>
- Cooperative Extension: <https://extension.umaine.edu/>

April is National Poetry Month! We have lots of poetry in our 811 section, and here are two sites to search for some of your favorites:

- Academy of American Poets: <https://poets.org/poems>
- Poetry Foundation: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/>

A few of the most popular adult titles at our library during March:

Other People's Houses, by Waxman; The Secret Love Letters of Olivia Moretti, by Probst; Oh William!, by Strout; Quicksilver, by Koontz; Honor, by Umrigar; The School of Essential Ingredients, by Bauermeister; The Lowering Days, by Brown (Maine); Wish You Were Here, by Picoult.

I am reading The Maid, by Nita Prose – a murder mystery involving a hotel maid and her coworkers. What are you reading/listening to/watching as we wait for the music of the peepers?

Vienna Union Hall

After two years of COVID-limited activity, the Vienna Union Hall has scheduled a season of entertainment. Some restrictions may be in place to assure the safety of our audience and performers. We will open the season with Greg Boardman, Elsie Gawler and Steve Muise on May 7th. The current schedule can also be found on the Website or our [Facebook page](#).

\$15 advance; \$20 at the door. [Tickets are available on the Website-Vienna Union Hall](#). For more information or to order tickets by phone, call 293-2674 or 293-4321.

May 7 - [Greg Boardman, Steve Muise and Elsie Gawler](#)

May 21 - [Katahdin Valley Boys](#)

June 11 - [The Gawler Family](#)

June 25 - [Seagrass](#)

July 9 - [Pat Colwell and the Soul Sensations](#)

July 14-16 - [Vienna Woods Players](#)

July 30 - [Aztec Two Step 2.0](#)

August 27 - [Bearnstow Dancers](#)

September - To be announced

October - To be announced

December 17 - Winter Revels

Community News

Fire Department News



Vienna Fire Department, Inc. meets every Thursday at 6:30PM but the following Thursdays are specifically designated as written:

Business Meetings: 2nd Thursday of *every month*

Training: 3rd Thursday of *every month*

The Department is always looking for new members! If you are interested in joining the Vienna Fire Department, come down to the station on any Thursday evening to learn more.

Mount Vernon Community Center



Due to the lower incidence of Covid-19, the café at the CC is reopening on April 9th from 9-11. Masking is not required but optional. As originally intended, the Café was devised as a way to socialize with your neighbors and meet new friends.

We have reverted to a Continental Breakfast consisting of Hot beverage and a carb like a muffin or scone. At 11 AM following the Café there will be an informational meeting of the Broad Band Committee for all Mount Vernon Residents. Hope to see you there.

As the following Saturday is the day before Easter, we most likely will not have a café that day to allow for traveling to family dinners on Sunday.

If any group would like to use the Café Breakfast time as a fundraiser or to just raise consciousness on any issue, please contact June Cauldwell or Daphne Sanders, our calendar coordinator for information and scheduling. And if anyone would like to participate in Café Breakfasts to help out at anytime, we welcome community volunteers and input.

As the fiscal year ends in June on the 30th, the Community center Board of trustees are always open to welcoming new board members. Currently, we have nine members and are looking for 2-4 more members. If you have a desire to give back to your community and bring in fresh ideas, we would like to hear from you! You can contact us thru the messaging option on the Mount Vernon CC Facebook site. Happy Spring!

Men's Breakfast - Temporarily on hold.

Women's "Juliet" Breakfast - Second Tuesday of each month at the Mill Stream Grange 8-9 AM. Pot luck breakfast plus \$2.00 per person.

Vienna Union Hall Association - Second Wednesday of each month. 7:00 at the Vienna Community Center (Nov.- March.) or at the Union Hall (April - Oct.) Welcome new members.

To submit a recurring event for future inclusion, please email details to viennanewsletter@fairpoint.net



Saturday, April 23

9am-11am

Mount Vernon

Town Beach

COOKIE BOOTH!

**Girl Scout Troop 2096
will be doing their annual
Earth Day clean-up of the
Town Beach &
War Memorial.**

**Stop to say hello and
purchase your cookies!**



Need a summer job?

Work with us on local lakes!



- * Have fun working outdoors on beautiful lakes!
- * Gain hands-on experience and build your resume
- * Provide a valuable service to your community, protecting our lakes.

The 30 Mile River Watershed Association is seeking:

Courtesy Boat Inspectors

- Prevent harmful invasive species attached to boats and trailers from entering lakes
- Educate boaters about the threats of invasive species
- Work outdoors at public boat launches on Androscoggin, Flying, Minnehonk and Parker.
- Memorial Day to Labor Day

Youth Conservation Corps

- Protect lake water quality through projects that reduce erosion and polluted stormwater runoff
- Install conservation practices like planting shrubs, building paths, and stabilizing shorelines.
- Work outdoors and learn hands-on skills
- 6 weeks (late June-early August)



On lakes within:
Chesterville
Fayette
Leeds
Mt. Vernon
Readfield
Vienna



For more information, please visit: www.30mileriver.org

Positions may be combined for full-time work.

Priority given to applications received by April 3rd, 2022



VIENNA FIRE DEPARTMENT'S
ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ

Sunday, July 31, 2022

11:30am-1:30pm

Adults \$9.00

Children 12 & Under \$4.00

**Place your order at the door, pick up at the window,
and feel free to enjoy your meal at the picnic tables
outside.**

TOWN OF VIENNA

Town of Vienna Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor -

Laura Church, Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff

Treasurer - Kerry Casey

Town Clerk and Tax Collector - Annie Tibbetts

Road Commissioner - Dan Goucher

Fire Chief and Warden - Brian Church

Health Officer - Daniel K. Onion

Animal Control Officer - Donald Tibbetts

Code Enforcement Officer - vacant

Plumbing Inspector - John Archard

Alternate Plumbing Inspector - Andy Marble

Addressing Officer - Tim Bickford

RSU#9 Representative - Josh Robbins



Office of the Selectmen

Vienna Town House

P.O. Box 38

212 Townhouse Road

Vienna, ME 04360

