

Vienna Record



Volume 24, Issue 6

December 2021/January 2022



Mill Stream Grange members, Paul and Debbie Lavender are shown with Mt. Vernon area Food Bank volunteer Marge Livingston on Saturday, November 13 making the Grange's annual donation of Thanksgiving basket items.

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Selectmen's Minutes

October 5, 2021

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

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant #19 (\$84,455.21).
4. Winter sand bid was awarded to Dave Stevens of Belgrade for the same price as last year.
5. Bulky pick up has been moved to October 18, 2021.
6. The selectmen helped a person with finding the book and page for a property listed at the Kennebec Registry of Deeds.
7. The selectmen and the Broadband

Committee reviewed progress to bring fiber to homes.

8. Meeting adjourned.

October 12, 2021

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church,

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. The selectmen worked on abatement paperwork. A resident had put their property into open space. This designation has been changed on the property card.
4. The selectmen made copies of appointment papers.
5. The select board discussed a resident's concern about the need to finish

Selectmen's Minutes (continued)

ditching on the Cumner Road. The Road Commissioner had started the ditching but had to stop as there was a large pile of firewood in the ditch. The firewood has been removed and the ditching will resume.

4. Meeting adjourned.

October 19, 2021

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

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant #20 (\$21, 268.93).
4. The selectmen helped a resident locate property owners so he could ask permission to use the land for snowmobile trails.
5. Meeting adjourned.

October 26, 2021

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Andrew Marble, Annie Tibbetts

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. The board appointed Andrew Marble to the position of backup plumbing inspector.
4. Meeting adjourned.

November 2, 2021

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

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant #21 (\$80,181.28).
4. The Selectmen worked on workers comp insurance.
5. Meeting adjourned.

November 9, 2021

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Tiffany Eastbrook, Tom Jewett, Jim Anderberg, Ed Lawless, Stan Webster

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Tiffany came to talk to the selectmen strategic

planning board committee.

4. The broadband committee updated the selectboard. The committee is looking into the Red Zone company. Red Zone has approached the town of Fayette to install wireless internet to the entire town.
5. Stan inquired about the section that continues from the Trask Road to the Cumner Road. This road has been blocked to stop people from going through. This is not legal as it was closed after 1962 and cannot be blocked.
6. Meeting adjourned.

November 16, 2021

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Kerry Casey, John Archard, Brian Church

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant #22 (\$ 56,637.84).
4. The town will be ordering a new road sign for a driveway that recently had a second house added.
5. A "bus stop ahead" sign will be installed on Kimball Pond Road. People have been driving faster since the road has been paved.
6. The Fire Department earned \$1005.00 cleaning chimneys.
7. Meeting adjourned.

November 23, 2021

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Rose Day, Mike Rogers

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Mike Rogers from the Maine Revenue Service Property Tax assisted in filling out the Municipal Valuation Return.
4. Laura, came to update the Selectmen on the purchase of the Vienna Mountain Blueberry Field. The Purchase has been finalized and the land has been opened to the public. The field will continue to be maintained and raked.
5. Meeting adjourned.
6. The Fire Department earned \$1005.00 cleaning chimneys.
7. Meeting adjourned.

Planning Board Minutes

September 22, 2021

The meeting convened at 7:00 PM at the Town House. Regular members present were Waine Whittier, Alan Williams, Creston Gaither, Ed Lawless, and Tim Bickford; also present were Brian Rehea, representing Maine Woods and Waters LLC, and Tim Davis, Jeff Castonguay, Doug Hobbin, and Sarah Watson. Creston had advertised this meeting as a public hearing regarding the proposed Stream Road Subdivision. Minutes of the Board's August 25 meeting were read and accepted.

Jeff Castonguay outlined a Shoreland Zoning Ordinance (SZO) permit he would like for his property at 15 South Herrin Woods Roads and shown on tax map 11 as Lot 60-H. The Board will do a site inspection there at 9:30 AM Saturday September 25.

The public hearing for the Stream Road Subdivision was then held. Tim Davis is its southerly abutter and is concerned about water and erosion and road water drainage. He says recent timber harvests have contributed to the problem. He was advised that State enforcement of its timber harvest regulations could help in this regard. Waine read out loud Section 5.E. of the Town's Subdivision Ordinance, regarding what the Planning Board can require of the developer in this regard. Tim says timber harvests have generated more problems than has the road, and that the existing diversion ditches are working well. Soil erosion control requirements outlined on the Final subdivision plan were read out loud. Waine said that the Town's Code Enforcement Officer would likely have enforcement power in this matter. Tim said a new pin at the southwesterly corner of the subdivision is a few feet from the original pin set in the '90's. He was advised that this is a legal question and not something the Planning Board can resolve. The discrepancy is evidently fairly small.

It was agreed that the transparency mentioned in the Subdivision Ordinance would not be necessary as State law no longer requires a transparency for recording.

Required findings of fact as per M.R.S.A. Title 30-A § 4404 were read aloud and no objections were voiced by either the Board or the public attendees. The Board then voted 5 - 0 to approve the subdivision and signed copies that Brian Rehea had brought with him; he will have a signed copy recorded at the Registry of Deeds soon.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Planning Board Minutes (continued)

October 27, 2021

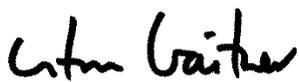
The meeting convened at 7:00 PM at the Town House. Regular members present were Waine Whittier, Creston Gaither and Ed Lawless. Minutes of the Board's September 22 meeting were read and accepted.

The possibility of a houseboat ordinance which the Board has previously discussed was briefly and informally discussed.

Creston said that the selectmen have confirmed that Code Enforcement Officer Matt Drost has resigned. It was also noted that Deputy Plumbing Inspector Gary Fuller has passed away.

Ed said that an attorney has been hired to form a Utility District for the 6 towns which have been working together on broadband service (one being Vienna). Broadband service was briefly discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.



Creston Gaither, secretary

Mill Stream Grange



Paul and Debbie Lavender and Jill Sampson of Mill Stream Grange in Vienna attended the Maine State Grange Conference on Thursday, Oct. 21 and Friday Oct. 22 in Auburn, Maine. Resolutions were voted on and Officers elected and installed. It was a very busy couple of days!

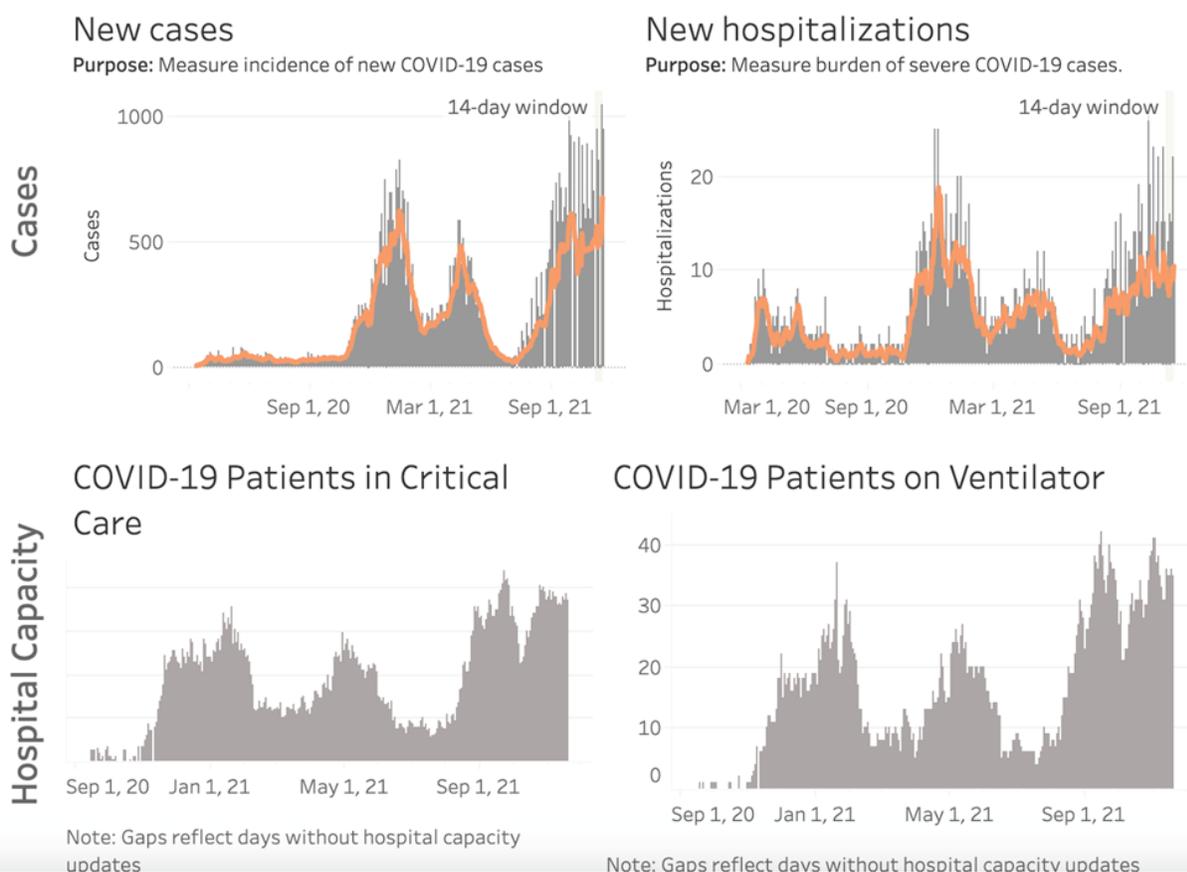
From the Health Officer

COVID19 SURGE and BOOSTERS UPDATES, plus ARSENIC IN THE WATER

Dan Onion, MD, MPH
 Mt. Vernon/Vienna/Fayette Health Officer
 293-2076; dkonion@gmail.com
 December 2021

Lots going on; let's take these in reverse, most urgent, order

1. The surge of covid infections here in Maine continues to increase and now exceeds the first two (see graphs as of 11/18/21 below), undoubtedly due to the much more transmissible and virulent Delta variant, plus pockets of families and counties with lower vaccination rates than the rest.



People are often confused by the increasing numbers of “breakthroughs” in the fully vaccinated in cases and other outcomes, thinking those outcomes indicate vaccination failures. Rather, breakthrough numbers are increasing because vaccination rates (Maine at 73% or about 950,000 people) are increasing compared to the unvaccinated (25% or about 350,000). As the former goes up, the other goes down. If both groups were suffering similar case, hospitalization, ICU/Ventilator, and death rates, vaccinated people would be suffering 3 times as many of those outcomes as among the unvaccinated people. Instead, those numbers are way more the reverse; bad outcomes in the unvaccinated population are roughly 10 times the numbers in the vaccinated. That’s called a

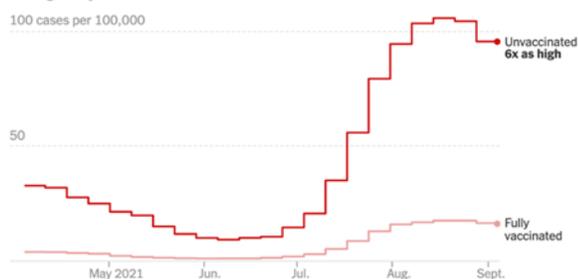
From the Health Officer

“base rate effect,” which is seen nationally as well (see graph below). That degree of protection, though, as in all medical treatments, is not 100%, is all the more impressive given that the breakthrough cases are seen predominantly in people with pre-morbid conditions (diabetes, immune suppression, chronic lung disease, etc), rates for which tend to be much lower in the younger and unvaccinated now.

Rates for vaccinated and unvaccinated

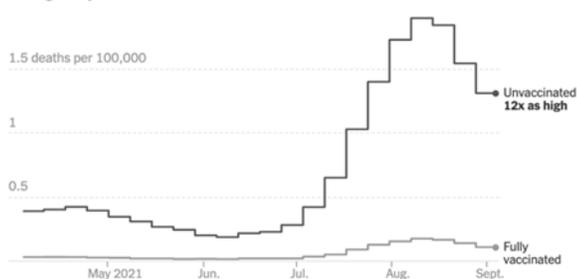
Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that people who are unvaccinated are at a [much greater risk](#) than those who are fully vaccinated to test positive or die from Covid-19. These charts compare age-adjusted average daily case and death rates for vaccinated and unvaccinated people in the 14 states and two cities that provide this data. Learn more about [who had breakthrough cases here](#).

Average daily cases



[About this data](#)

Average daily deaths



2. Boosters: last month I urged all who qualified, to get boosters if more than 6 months out from a Pfizer or Moderna 2-shot series, or 2 months out from the single Johnson and Johnson primary immunization. Governor Mills and her staff have recognized how hard people are finding it to figure out if they qualify or not and have changed the rules so all people, no matter their age, can get boosters. The federal CDC continues to recommend restricting boosters to just high-risk people, but will likely liberalize in a similar manner soon. However, chain pharmacies like CVS, Walmart, and Walgreens may not open to all until the federal CDC makes that change. So, get a booster now! They work to increase your immunity!

3. Finally, Arsenic: As many in Vienna know, the Kimball Pond Road spring has been recognized to have Arsenic levels consistently above the national safety guidelines and may have to close or have the risk to users mitigated in some way. I am exploring those choices with the owners, the Vienna Historical Society. Meanwhile, I've discovered one other nearby home on Kimball Pd Rd, where the owners have identified a similar elevation in their drilled well and have wisely gone to bottled drinking water to protect their young children and the parents as well. I suggested the town test the fire station drilled well, and that water's arsenic level is ok.

I worry that there may be other clusters of water sources where only 1 or 2 households have identified the high levels. I'd ask anybody, in any of my 3 towns, who may have found high levels of arsenic in their water, to let me know, even if you have remediated the problem. I will urge neighbors around such wells/springs to have their water tested to be sure they are safe.

Thank you and happy holidays.

Town Clerk



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

The Town Clerk's office is open regular hours:

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

Dogs can be registered with the Town Clerk. Altered dogs are \$6 and unaltered dogs are \$11.

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"

Format

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

Deadline

Please submit all items or articles for the February/March issue of the *Vienna Record* by **January 25, 2022.**

Send us your photos!

We want your seasonal photos of Vienna! For consideration, please email photos to: viennanewsletter@fairpoint.net

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51 TOWN HOUSE RD.
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 Web: barbshandpainted.craftah.com

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library News



“When my father first took me to Ennis Library I went down among the shelves and felt company, not only the company of the writers, but the readers too, because they had lifted and opened and read these books. The books were worn by hands and eyes and minds...and I just loved it, the whole strange sense of being aboard a readership .”

Niall Williams, History of the Rain

Book sale: Right now, we can't accept more book donations, our sale shelves are overflowing. Our book sale continues, we have so much fiction and nonfiction to browse and buy. The winter holiday gatherings always provide a chance to do book exchanges – come grab a stack and share with friends, neighbors, and family!

Tax Help! Our Tax Gurus, David and Christine, are preparing to offer their annual tax help days. They will offer appointments at the library on Tuesdays, when we aren't open to patrons, so we can keep the building from being too crowded and folks can stay physically distant in order to protect health. Right now, David hopes the dates for appointments will be March 1st, March 15th, and March 29th. Appointments at the library are meant to serve primarily Mt. Vernon and Vienna residents. We hope to be ready to accept phone calls requesting appointments after January 4th. We will update any new information on our Facebook page and our website, if plans change.

'Tis the season: this month, Alice will do a holiday story video for our Facebook page and she will devise more Take&Makes to hand out. Let us know if you want some for your children. You can leave a message on our Facebook page, email us at librarian@drshawlibrary.org, leave a phone message at 293-2565, or just sign up next time you come in. And, as we do each year, we are starting to put some winter holiday books out on the children's table. Come in and grab a couple for some cozy family reading time. Jan Brett is always a popular author for holiday and winter themes!

Many of our patrons have signed up for Hoopla, the online streaming service we subscribe to so patrons can watch or listen to some free videos, music, ebooks, and more each month. This month, they are offering a few Hallmark Christmas movies, and have some children's activities to explore. Let us know if you need help signing up for this service. You simply need your email and the barcode number from your library card (we can also give you that number if you have misplaced your card).

The night sky is so beautiful during winter months. There are a few astronomy sites for young patrons to explore, which might help expand their wonder and awe and curiosity. The sites feature either constellations or planets:

<https://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub/index.html>

<https://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/StarChild.html>

<https://www.planetsforkids.org/>

<https://planetarium.ipsd.org/Subpage.aspx?id=282>

<https://www.astronomy.cafe/astronomy-for-kids-the-constellations-of-winter/>

I have just started reading Colm Toibin's *The Magician*. It is historical fiction featuring Thomas Mann as the main character. Toibin's writing is so engaging. We have a few more of his novels, if you get drawn in (once I return it). What are you reading during winter's long evenings?

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.

Recurring Community Events

Our community is beginning to resume in-person activities, with some modifications. See details below!



Mt. Vernon Community Center Café - Temporarily on hold.

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

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



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

December 4th, 5-7PM

Mount Vernon Community Center beach

Carols, Christmas favorites, hot chocolate and hot cider, cookies galore!

Sponsored by Mount Vernon CC Trustees

Who You Gonna Call?

Tear out this page and post it near your phone.

Board of Selectmen:

Laura Church 293-3892
Chris Smith 860-8574
Jeff Rackliff 491-1621

Town Clerk/Tax Collector:

Annie Tibbetts 293-2915

Treasurer:

Kerry Casey 458-2482

Road Commissioner:

Dan Goucher 293-2833

Animal Control Officer:

Donald Tibbetts 293-2915

Game Warden:

624-7000

Vienna Fire Department:

Brian Church, Chief 293-3892
Paul LeBlond, Deputy 491-6738

Code Enforcement Officer:

vacant

Plumbing Inspector:

John Archard 293-2674
Andy Marble (Alternate) 779-4858

Health Officer:

Daniel K. Onion 293-2076

Winter Road Contractor:

Troy Bean 491-5798

Addressing Officer:

Tim Bickford 215-6004

School Board Representative:

Josh Robbins 578-1318

Planning Board:

Waine Whittier, Chair 293-2072
Creston Gaither, Sec. 293-2909
Alan Williams 293-4321
Ed Lawless 293-2635
Tim Bickford 215-6004

Newsletter Editor

Kirsten Heck viennanewsletter@fairpoint.net

Webmaster (viennamaine.org)

Jim Anderberg 293-2673

Board of Appeals

Tom Carey, Chair 215-5595

Merry Dumpsters (Recycling Board):

Call a selectman

Town House Committee:

Millie Whittier, Chair 293-2072
Norma Wing, Vice Chair 293-3725
Barbara Gilman, Treasurer 293-2271

Assessing Agent, John Sexton

Call a selectman

Municipal Cemetery Sexton:

Ernestine Emery 293-2332

Norridgewock Landfill:

634-2714

Riverside Disposal

623-2577

Vienna Town House:

293-2087

Vienna Community Building:

293-4000

Vienna Post Office:

293-9332

RSU #9:

Cape Cod Hill School 778-6571
778-3031
Mt. Blue High School 778-3561

Poison Control Center

800-442-6305

Central Maine Power

Emergency

800-696-1000

Franklin Memorial Hospital

800-398-6031

Maine General Medical Center

626-1206

Maine State Police

Emergency

800-452-4664

Kennebec County Sheriff

623-3591

Police-Fire-Emergency

911

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

