

Vienna Record



Volume 26 Issue 1

February/March 2023



A pink Parker Pond sunset,
January 15, 2023
Photo by Beverly Olson

Inside this issue:

Selectmen's Minutes	1
Broadband Committee	3
Planning Board Minutes	4
Dr. Shaw Memorial Library News	5
Community News	6

Selectmen's Minutes

The Town of Vienna is accepting bids for lawn care for the 2023 season. Bids are due by 6:30p.m. March 21, 2023. Contact a Selectman for details.

December 6, 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 #23 (\$112,392.21).
4. The selectmen received the contract from Parker Appraisal Services.
5. The selectmen and treasurer reviewed accounts as the end of the year is near.
6. Meeting adjourned.

December 13, 2022

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Laura Rose Day, Scott Pierce

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Laura updated the selectboard on the Allen's Blueberry property. Johnathan Milne will be the land steward for the Allen's Blueberry fields which the Kennebec Land Trust recently purchased. John will work with the State to maintain the fields and the forest.
4. Scott reviewed the towns' property maps as he has been trying to find who owns a property he is interested in.
5. Meeting adjourned.

Selectmen's Minutes (continued)

December 20, 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 #24 (\$19,759.13).
4. Received a thank you card from the Vienna/Mt. Vernon food bank.
5. The selectboard sent a copy of a property card to a realtor as requested.
6. Meeting adjourned.

December 27, 2022

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 monitor heater is not working and the building is cold.
4. A file has been started for the 2022 report and the selectmen have started going over the articles.
5. The town will be applying for FEMA grant funds to help cover the cost of the repairs to the roads caused by the large amount of rain over Christmas weekend.
6. Meeting adjourned.

January 3, 2023

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

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant #25 (\$5,125.18) and Warrant #1 (\$87,680.35).
4. Alan discussed adding an Article to the Town Meeting Warrant in March. The article is to pay an additional \$20,000 for the 2022-2023 season,

\$20,000 for 2023-2024 and 25,000 for the 2024-2025 season to the person/company that has the current plow contract. This is to help cover the increase in current diesel costs.

5. The selectmen worked on the Town Warrant.
6. Meeting adjourned.

January 10, 2023

No Selectmen Meeting

January 17, 2023

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

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant #26 (\$31,861.16).
4. Reviewed and signed Warrant #26 (\$7,964.69).
5. Stan requested additional funding for the Franklin Cemetery; this is the cemetery on the Tower Road, on the left, before the Cumner Road. His request for an additional \$150.00 will be added to the Town Warrant to be voted on at the March town meeting.
6. Meeting adjourned.

January 24, 2023

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Jim Anderberg, Stan Webster, Wayne Reynolds, Mark Ouelette

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. The selectmen met with Mark Ouelette from Axiom Communication along with the Vienna Broadband Committee. Vienna has received a grant that will pay for 80% of the project. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.
4. Meeting adjourned.

Important Dates

Town of Vienna Voting—Friday, March 10, 4pm-8pm

Town Meeting—Saturday, March 11, 9am

Vienna Community Room

(attached to the fire station on Kimball Pond Road)

Broadband Committee

Broadband Grant Awarded to Vienna

Affordable, high speed, Internet access will be available to all homes in Vienna. On January 20th the Maine Connectivity Authority approved our \$2,229,396 request for assistance in building a community owned fiber-to-the-home network. This will cover 85% of the estimated \$2.7 million dollar project. The remainder will be covered by reserve account funds and a bond that will be paid off by revenues from subscription fees. There will be no tax impact from this.

When complete, Vienna will own the network and lease operations out to Axiom Technologies an internet service provider based in Machias, Maine. Just as the town of Vienna owns and repairs our roads we will also own and maintain the fiber optic network. And just as we contract out for snow plowing in the winter we will contract with an Internet service provider to operate the network. With our community-owned network, there will be no need to rely on big internet service providers that may prioritize their profits over the needs of the community. If Axiom Technologies fails to meet our agreed upon standards of operation we will be free to find another company that will.

Construction of the fiber network is estimated to begin in the fall of 2023. A lot depends on how long it will take for the “make-ready” process whereby every pole is examined to make sure they are prepared for connecting our fiber cable.

Once the “make-ready” process is complete construction can begin. Around that time Axiom will be offering pre-subscriptions which will qualify you for a free installation.

Construction is estimated to take around 4 months.

A \$60/month subscription to this service will not only improve your internet connection by more than 10 times what currently have but also a portion of that fee is returned to Vienna to help with ongoing maintenance and operations.

To stay informed of our progress be sure to periodically check out the broadband section of the Vienna web site: (https://viennamaine.org/Broadband_committee)

You can also request there to be placed on our mailing list where we periodically send out updates of our progress.

Planning Board Minutes

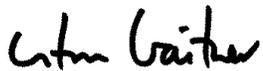
November 23, 2022

The meeting convened at the Town House at 7:00 PM; regular members present were Waine Whittier, Alan Williams, Ed Lawless, Creston Gaither, and Tim Bickford. Also present were Lory Zamboni and Wendy Leighton. Minutes of the October 26 meeting were read and accepted.

Printed copies of Wendy Leighton's email bearing today's date were read. She was advised that the Planning Board has no enforcement power, especially regarding the plumbing code and that Vienna has no Code Enforcement Officer at the moment. She believes that the State has approved her composting toilet and was advised to see that Plumbing Inspector John Archard gets this data. She was advised to move her shed and get a septic design and get a new SSWD permit and then install the system.

Lory Zamboni says that when Marie Kohtala died last year the Kohtala Family land trust ceased to exist and that the former Kohtala land now belongs to Marie's 4 children and the late John Kohtala's widow. Lory was advised that the sale of a lot to a non-family member within 5 years could create a subdivision requiring municipal approval under the State Subdivision law. After a review of Title 30-A §4401 Section D and a discussion it was voted 4-0 that the division among family members which Lory described would not require municipal review and approval; Creston recused himself, having surveyed the property in question and being an employee of Acme Land Surveying, LLC, which is expected to survey the lots to be created.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

 Creston Gaither, secretary

Editor's Notes

Deadline

Please submit all items or articles for the April/May issue of the *Vienna Record* by **March 25, 2023**.

Format

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

Send us your photos!

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



Art by Katie Church

From the Town Clerk



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

Tuesday 5-7pm Wednesday 9am-12pm and 12:30-5pm
 Thursday 10am-1pm Last Saturday of the month 9am-12pm

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library News



“Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life.

Libraries change lives for the better.”

- Sidney Sheldon

With all of the storms we’ve had this past month, it is always good to check our Facebook page or to call the library (293-2565) during our regular hours, to see if we will be open, before you venture out onto the roads.

Memorial Tree: Our local artistic forger, Perry Johnson, is ready to inscribe some more metal leaves to put on the Memorial Tree near our driveway. Last summer the Library Trustees commissioned Perry, proprietor of FoeHammer Forge Works, to design and construct a memorial tree to add to the garden landscape. The metal leaves are available to purchase, with engraved loved one’s names. Proceeds from the sale of leaves will go to the George Smith Memorial Fund at the library for the continued upkeep of the gardens. Pricing for the leaves is \$20 for each of the large leaves, and \$15 for the smaller ones. We have samples of the leaves on the counter at the library. Orders and payment may be given to the librarian in attendance, and Perry will add the leaves as he finishes them. This is a beautiful way to honor local loved ones!

How do you keep track of **Community Events** throughout the year? Sign up with us to receive our weekly **Events Email**, so you can see what is happening. To sign up to receive the email, please send us an email at librarian@drshawlibrary.org In the subject line, use the word “Events”, and then in the body of the email, just ask us to sign you up, using your email address. If you have a community event that you would like us to post, write a brief description (title of event, what it is about, time and place) in the body of the email, and also use the word “Events” in the subject line. It is an easy way to stay informed about happenings around Mt. Vernon, Vienna, Fayette, and neighboring towns.

Tax Help days: We still have a few appointment slots for Tax Help with our tax gurus, David and Christine, who provide tax assistance to community members each year as a service of AARP. Our tax help days are all Saturdays: February 25, March 11, and March 25. Call us at the library (293-2565) during the hours we are open (Mondays 3-6, Wednesdays 9-12 and 3-7, Saturdays 10-3) and we’ll sign you up and mail you the information you will need to provide. And – thank you, David, for your valuable information on Maine tax law changes during your Income Tax Workshop this past week!

Alice will have some **Take&Make kits** ready for families to grab by February 11th. You can grab some for your young ones when you come in for your next stack of books!

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library News

Bendable Maine: Some of our patrons attended the local zoom meeting sponsored by all of our local libraries last week, to hear about the learning opportunities provided by Bendable Maine, which is a robust learning marketplace. Maine residents of all ages can easily discover content on a wide variety of subjects, and acquire new knowledge & skills through online resources as well as in-person learning opportunities. Because this is offered through Maine State Library, the majority of resources featured are free to Maine residents. You can go to: <https://maine.bendable.com> and create your own free account, and start your next learning adventure!

ComicsPlus: We are now offering free unlimited access to digital comics, graphic novels, and manga, through a site called COMICSPLUS on Maine Infonet. There are no holds, wait lists, or borrowing limits. You can go to: <https://www.maineinfonet.org/comicsplus> and scroll down to the Dr. Shaw Memorial Library. Note that our library is listed twice. The second listing says: The Dr. Shaw Memorial Library – Children. The children’s listing blocks adult content but includes material for younger children through teens. Set up your own account by using your 4 digit library number and creating your own password.

The night sky is so beautiful during winter months. If your young ones are intrigued by all the stars in the sky, here are a few astronomy sites for young patrons to explore. They 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://www.astronomy.cafe/astronomy-for-kids-the-constellations-of-winter/>

I just finished Ross Gay’s *Inciting Joy*. What are you reading in between cleaning up after the storms (and maybe making plans for your garden)?

Community News

Fire Department News



Growing snow piles can sometimes make it hard, but for safety’s sake, please take a moment to clear snow from any reflective numbering marking your house so we can find you easier in case of emergency.

Thanks to our hardworking plow drivers for keeping the station cleared out so far this season!

Community News

Fire Department News (continued)



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.

Neighbors Driving Neighbors Expanding to Readfield

MT. VERNON, ME (January 19, 2023) – Neighbors Driving Neighbors will soon provide free transportation to residents of Readfield who don't drive. In announcing this expansion of NDN's service area, Harald Bredesen, NDN's President, said, "Readfield and we have had each other in our sights for over a year and are thrilled that this collaboration is now being realized." Readfield Town Manager Eric Dyer echoed Bredesen, noting, "We've been admiring the value NDN delivers to its service-area communities and look forward to a successful launch over the next several months. This is an important piece of the puzzle for communities like ours with close proximity to service centers but limited transportation options."

A working group made up of representatives of NDN and Readfield is now recruiting an initial group of drivers and riders with a plan to initiate service provision in the Spring. "We'll be scheduling training sessions for prospective drivers and conducting intake interviews of residents who are looking for rides," said Joe Austin, NDN's Executive Director.

Bredesen added that NDN volunteer drivers have now driven more than 100,000 miles to help over 180 different riders get to where they need to go. "The heart of NDN is the volunteer driver. It is that community spirit that makes NDN possible and that makes Readfield a natural next step. What better way to mark the 100,000th mile than to invite the neighbors."

About Neighbors Driving Neighbors: NDN is a non-profit organization founded in 2015 to enrich participating communities by matching volunteer drivers with those who do not drive. NDN's current service area comprises Belgrade, Fayette, Mt. Vernon, Readfield, Rome, and Vienna, and 40 volunteer drivers provide rides to 58 registered riders. For more information including FAQs, visit neighborsdrivingneighbors.org.

Community Breakfast - First Saturday of the month, 9-11am at the Mount Vernon Community Center

Men's Breakfast - On hiatus until Spring 2023

Women's "Juliet" Breakfast - Second Tuesday of each month at the Mill Stream Grange 8:30-9:30 AM.

Potluck 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

Vienna Historical Society Presents

PuzzlePalooza

It's been a mild winter so far with no cabin fever, but we would still like to get together to work puzzles, visit with friends, and EAT goodies - coffee and sweets early, then pizza for lunch.

LUCKY DAY ON THE POND



THEY COULD HAVE BEEN WORKING PUZZLES!

Please join us for fun and grub!
If you can't stay and play, please drop by,
have lunch and enjoy the good company.

Saturday, February 18th
(Storm Date Saturday, February 25th)

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Mill Stream Grange—Vienna



Welcome Home

Vietnam Era Veterans Breakfast

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Who: Vietnam Era Veterans and one guest

What: FREE full-service breakfast, program and ceremonies

When: 9 a.m., Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Where: Augusta Civic Center, 76 Community Drive, Augusta, ME

Why: To thank all Vietnam era veterans for their service and sacrifice

How: RSVP by March 3, 2023, to this FREE event;
give.classy.org/vietnamveteranbreakfast

Or scan to sign up!



US Army Staff Sargent (Retired) Travis Mills is an ardent supporter of our Vietnam Era Veterans. SSG Mills and the Travis Mills Foundation Team are honored to hold this event as a way to say 'Thank You' and 'Welcome Home' to those who served during the Vietnam War.



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
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Treasurer:

Kerry Casey	458-2482
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Road Commissioner:

Dan Goucher	293-2833
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Animal Control Officer:

Donald Tibbetts	293-2915
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Game Warden:

	624-7000
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Vienna Fire Department:

Brian Church, Chief	293-3892
Paul LeBlond, Deputy	491-6738
Michael Church, Assistant	242-7955

Code Enforcement Officer:

Contact Planning Board

Plumbing Inspector:

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

Health Officer:

vacant

Winter Road Contractor:

Troy Bean (10/1/20 -5/31/23)	491-5798
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Addressing Officer:

Tim Bickford	215-6004
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School Board Representative:

Josh Robbins	578-1318
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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
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Board of Appeals

Tom Carey, Chair	215-5595
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Merry Dumpsters (Recycling Board):

Contact Selectboard

Assessing Agent, John Sexton

Municipal Cemetery Sexton:

Ernestine Emery	293-2332
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Norridgewock Landfill:

	634-2714
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Riverside Disposal

	623-2577
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Vienna Town House:

	293-2087
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Vienna Community Building:

	293-4000
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Vienna Post Office:

	293-9332
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RSU #9:

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

Poison Control Center

	800-442-6305
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Central Maine Power

Emergency

	800-696-1000
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Franklin Memorial Hospital

	800-398-6031
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Maine General Medical Center

	626-1206
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Maine State Police

Emergency

	800-452-4664
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Kennebec County Sheriff

	623-3591
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Police-Fire-Emergency

	911
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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 - vacant

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

