

Vienna Record



Volume 27 Issue 1

February/March 2024



Photo by Bev Olson

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Selectmen's Minutes

December 5, 2023

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 (\$95,760.41).
4. Meeting adjourned.

December 12, 2023

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Barry Emery

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. The Selectboard opened bids for installation of a heat pump and bids for the electrical.

One bid was received for Electrical:
-Hamlin Electric \$620.00

Two bids were received for the Heat Pump:

-Webster Plumbing & Heat \$12,500.00
-Fitch Heating \$7,719.63

The Electrical bid was awarded to Hamlin Electric for \$620.00. The Heat Pump Bid was awarded to Fitch Heating \$7,719.63.

4. Meeting adjourned.

December 19, 2023

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Ed Lawless, Brian Church, Barry Emery, Kerry Casey

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.

Selectmen's Minutes (continued)

3. Reviewed and signed Warrant #24 (\$44,889.50).
4. The board confirmed a motion that the selectboard signed a construction and operation contract with Axiom Technologies in accordance with the prior vote and to rectify the exact version of the Agreement that was signed.
5. The board confirmed a motion to sign the contract with MCA for the grant funding that will be used to build the Vienna Broadband system. All contracts have been signed and the make ready process will be started.
6. The board discussed damage to the community room roof that happened when a tree went through the roof during the storm on 12/18/23. The repair will be going out to bid.
7. The board discussed road damage from the 12/18/23 storm. This storm had much more rain and wind than the spring storm however the roads held up much better. At this time, the Kimball Pond Road is washed out near the culvert that crosses the road (near the Berry residence). The Jesse Ladd Road culvert held, however the upper part of the road, received some washing. The Cumner Road was unpassable in places but Dan has been working on all of these. The Davis Road between the Goucher and Mason Road washed out and was repaired.
8. Meeting adjourned.

December 26, 2023

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. The selectboard issued an abatement to the Small Woodland Owners.
4. The selectboard reviewed road damage caused by the December 19, 2023 flooding.
5. The selectmen worked on File 7 for the KEMA.
6. Meeting adjourned.

January 2, 2024

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Tim Seamon, Edward Seamon, 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 #25 (\$3,303.16).
4. Reviewed and signed Warrant # 01 (\$33, 394.02).
5. The Selectboard signed the Municipal Resolution. This helps the Town receive additional grants.
6. Meeting adjourned.

January 9, 2024

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. The Selectboard signed a letter stating the Town of Vienna does not issue occupancy certificates. A resident needed this letter to give to their Insurance company in order to receive homeowners insurance.
4. The selectboard worked on changing Dunn's number to an UEI for FEMA. FEMA recently changed to using UEI numbers and this needed to be completed to receive the fund.
5. The pole attachment agreements were signed.
6. The selectboard worked on the 2024 Warrant.
7. Meeting adjourned.

The January 16, 2024 meeting was postponed to January 17, 2024 due to weather.

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Lidie Robbins, Beth Trehu, Nate Kane, Whitney Baker, 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 #26 (\$71,235.74).
4. Reviewed and signed Warrant #02 (\$108,592.98).
5. The selectboard worked on the 2024 Warrant.
6. The Selectboard met with The Grant Committee who have been working on a grant for the Trask Road culvert project.
7. Laura signed the CCI Pole Attachment Agreement.
8. Meeting adjourned.

Selectmen's Minutes (continued)

January 23, 2024

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

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. The selectboard worked on the Warrant for the March Town Meeting.
4. The selectboard assisted a resident with finding a couple of pieces of property and owner information.
5. A resident asked questions about broadband prices.
6. Meeting adjourned.

January 30, 2024

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Dan

Goucher, Brian Church, Whitney Baker

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. The selectboard met with the Town Road Commissioner, 30 Mile Watershed, and Grant Committee about a DOT Grant which will be submitted this week. The grant will go toward the Jesse Ladd Road, Trask Road, and Kimball Pond Road. The grant will provide funding to have an engineer access the road and design solutions to the flooding issues on these roads.
4. The selectboard signed the grant application authorization form.
5. Meeting adjourned.

Planning Board Minutes

October 25, 2023

On October 15, regular members Creston Gaither, Alan Williams, Ed Lawless, and Tim Bickford met with Joe and Leah Tuite at their Flying Pond lot at 6 South Herrin Woods Rd. to consider their proposal to extend the existing deck on their house and to construct stairs between the deck and a proposed landing at the pond. Very steep slopes were noted. Based on its on-site observations and the Tuites' verbal representations, a site drawing they provided, and a subsequent examination of the pertinent flood hazard map, the Board determined that the project as outlined above:

- (1) Will maintain safe and healthful conditions;
- (2) Will not result in water pollution, erosion, or sedimentation to surface waters;
- (3) Will adequately provide for the disposal of all wastewater;
- (4) Will not have an adverse impact on spawning grounds, fish, aquatic life, bird or other wildlife habitat;
- (5) Will conserve shore cover and visual, as well as actual, points of access to inland waters;
- (6) Will protect archaeological and historic resources as designated in the comprehensive plan;
- (7) Will avoid problems associated with floodplain development and use; and
- (8) Is in conformance with the provisions of Vienna's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance (SZO), Section 15, Land Use Standards.

The Tuites asked that the Board delay permit approval until Spring in order to extend the 2 year window for project completion.

Planning Board Minutes (continued)

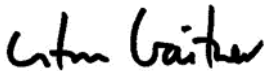
The Board's regular meeting convened on October 25 at the Town House at 7:00 PM. Members present were as listed above along with Waine Whittier. Jerry Lynch was also present. Minutes of the September 27 meeting were read and accepted.

Jerry Lynch appeared regarding a lot at 17 Waite Road shown on tax map 10 as lot 36. He is representing the owners, the Burnetts. He presented a sketch and a letter from Candice Burnett authorizing Lynch Landscaping to represent her. The Burnetts would like to flatten the area below the existing retaining wall. Jerry says the surface is infested with coltsfoot, an invasive plant which could create erosion problems in the future. MMA attorney Susanne Pilgrim's recent email to Waine was reviewed briefly. She advised us to contact DEP. Jerry was advised that a site visit would be required for a Shoreland Zoning Ordinance permit. Waine will contact DEP and see if they want to participate in a site visit. Waine will contact Jerry when the Board is ready to proceed.

Thomas Greateon's permit of August 4, 2022 for land shown on tax map 2 as lot 9 was discussed. It appears that a concrete pad has been placed on the parcel when the permit may have expired. Waine will try to contact Mr. Greateon about this.

Mark Rains appeared at 7:30. He has obtained SSWD permit #016 - 23 for the project he outlined at the September meeting for his land shown on tax map 10 as lot 75. He was therefore given a Notification of Construction permit.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.



Creston Gaither, secretary

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

March will be very busy for the Town of Vienna. We have two elections. The first will be Tuesday March 5, 2024 from 8am to 8pm. It is the Presidential Primary election. The second election is the Municipal Election on Friday March 8 from 4pm to 8pm. We will be voting on the 3rd Selectman, Tax Collector, Town Clerk and the Treasurer positions. March 9 will be our town meeting.

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library News

“In times of darkness, books are invaluable because they radiate hope and inspiration and insight, and because at their best they transform utterly the world within and the world without.”

-Junot Diaz

We will be hosting an **iPhone Workshop on Monday, March 4th at 4pm**. This will be different from the last class as it will be taught in person. Our tech help person will be showing some basics, answering questions, and taking ideas on how to improve the Library's tech curriculum going forward. The goal is to create a more tailored experience for our town residents but we can't do it without your help! Registration is not required, however we request that you call or email ahead of time so that we can get a general head count.

Ongoing programs and activities:

Tax Help, with our AARP Tax Gurus, David and Christine. There are a few slots left, as of this writing. The Saturday dates are: Feb. 24, March 9, and March 23, from 10:15am till 1:15pm.

As usual, **Tech Help** is available on Wednesday mornings from 9AM - Noon. Bring a device (phone, laptop, tablet) you want to learn more about, drop in, and spend some time with Remi learning new skills. This has become a valuable service for many of our patrons!

Book Bingo is underway here at the library. Come grab a bingo card (or ask us to mail one to you) and join the year-long personal reading challenge. Books must be read (or listened to) between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024. You have a chance to win a final raffle by completing a horizontal, vertical, or diagonal line, or a grand prize raffle if you complete all 25 squares! This is a fun, non-competitive reading activity that might introduce you to a new author or new subject. We have some sample books on the Book Bingo table in the main room!

Yarn Group Crafternoons are held each 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month, from 1-3PM, here at the library. Bring a yarn project, or any craft project, and join this wonderful, knowledgeable group of people in order to learn a bit more about various crochet or knitting skills, or just to be with a friendly group while you create your own project.

This is the time of year when the night sky can be so clear & magnificent. Here are a couple of websites & children's books that might help the members of your household appreciate the beauty of the sky:

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

<https://darksky.org/>

A few children's books on the subject:

The Glow-in-the-Dark Night Sky Book, by Clint Hatchett J 523.8 HAT

If You Can See the Dark, by Timothy Mudie PB ME 591.5 MUD

When the Stars Come Out, by Nicola Edwards J 525.35 EDW

I just finished one of my Book Bingo reads - Soil and Spirit by Scott Chaskey. What are you reading when you're not shoveling snow, ice skating, or paging through seed catalogs?

Community News

Thank You Notes

I feel blessed to live in such a loving, caring community. Because of generous neighbors the Giving Tree was able to provide Christmas help to 16 local families who might otherwise struggle to purchase gifts for their 44 children. Cheerful Gifts brightened the season for 40+ older community members who might otherwise be spending the Christmas season alone.

Special thanks to the following people who helped make The Giving Tree a success this year:

Allissa Spiotta for creating the posters and hanging them around town;

Members of our community who provided Cheerful Gifts and the Juliets for baking so many wonderful goodies for older recipients; The Girl Scouts for the adorable Christmas decorations and cards which were included in each of the Cheerful Gifts;

Neighbors Driving Neighbors and community members who delivered the Cheerful Gifts and visited with some very appreciative neighbors;

Everyone who sent in monetary donations to help the families provide Christmas for their children. To those of you who sent some very generous donations in memory of Pat Rawson and Don Warren - you reaffirmed my belief in Santa!

Pat must be smiling. The tradition she began more than 30 years ago continues to brighten the lives of both givers and receivers. I am so grateful. Thank you.

Leslie Grenier, Head Elf of the Giving Tree

The Mount Vernon Community Center Board members would like to extend a hearty thank you to all who donated food and/or showed up to enjoy the amazing variety of foods for our International Dinner. It's obvious to us that the people enjoyed not only the food but the opportunity to visit with friends and neighbors and even make new friends. So thank you! We have some much needed repairs that need to be made to the building and as always, your donations help us both in getting those repairs done and offering the building for many other events.

We have 2 upcoming **Community Cafés** (February 3rd and March 2nd). Come out from 9-1 to enjoy yummy breakfast and brunch foods.

Our next big community event will be **Pi(e) Day**. We are still in the planning stages of that, but are tentatively scheduling that for Saturday, March 16th. What a fun way to celebrate 3.14! To stay up to date on our events, find us on Facebook (Mt. Vernon Community Center), be sure you're signed up to receive event emails from the library and town newsletters, and as always, watch for the colorful flyers that will go up around town.

If you are interested in hosting your own event at the community center (either as a town committee or for a personal event), please contact Daphne Sanders at 293-2619



How wonderful it is when community things just seem to bubble up! In mid-January, new Vienna resident John Rodrigue saw Chelan Lawless and her boys shoveling a spot to skate near the Flying Pond boat landing. He and his trusty four-legged companion returned to the pond with a shovel and a snow scoop and enlarged it a bit more. John posted about it on Facebook and before long he was back again along with Brian Church and Darrell Watson with snowblowers making it bigger still. Other folks came along and helped too. A few milk crates were donated for folks to sit on to lace up skates. Before long, a lovely rink was being enjoyed by so many skaters! John and the others have committed to maintaining it as long as they can, flooding it to smooth the ice and clearing away snow as needed. Thank you so VERY MUCH for this wonderful community effort!

Photos used with permission by John Rodrigue.

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

Editor's Notes

Deadline

Please submit all items or articles for the April/May issue of the *Vienna Record* by **March 25, 2024.**

Format

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

Viennanewsletter@fairpoint.net

Mill Stream Grange

Mill Stream Grange Master, Judy Dunn (r) presents the annual Christmas donation to member Rosie Baker who accepts on behalf of the Mount Vernon Food Bank.



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

Men's Breakfast - Tuesdays at 7:00 AM at Scapes Cafe.

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



Come enjoy breakfast with us at

The Community Café

Mt. Vernon Community Center

2 Main St., Mount Vernon, ME

Saturday, March 2nd, 9-11am

*Donations to help maintain and operate the
Community Center are welcome.*



MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY CENTER

Pi(e) Day



Saturday, March 16th at the
Community Center

9-10AM - Silent Auction...for Pie!

*(Many varieties will be available, both savory
and sweet — bring home and enjoy)*

9-11AM - Breakfast Pizza-Pie
will be served. (Donations welcome)



All proceeds benefit MVCC maintenance + supplies.

Muffin Mornings Resume

The Aging in Place Committee welcomes our older residents to kick start your week by coming to our:

Monday Muffin Mornings----9:00-10:30

Come enjoy muffins, coffee, tea, along with conversation.

Kick off topics (KOT) included.

February 5

at the **Mt. Vernon Community Center**

KOT-The Aging Brain

February 19

at **The Starling Hall-Fayette**

KOT-Speaker: Chef from Hannaford

March 4

at the **Mt. Vernon Community Center**

KOT-Financial Legacy and Trust

March 18

at the **Vienna Grange Hall**

KOT-Share your family history

We continue to encourage conversations to learn about the barriers faced while aging at home and the resources needed to maintain a safe and healthy lifestyle.



While the focus of these older residents, we also participate. Caregivers perspective on what needed by those they care for and this input will also be very valuable.

Muffin mornings is on our invite caregivers to may have a different assistance might be

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 - Erin Quimby

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

