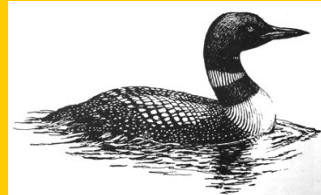


Town of Mount Vernon Community Newsletter



www.mtvernonme.org

April 2022 Edition

TOWN OFFICE STAFF

Town Office

Phone: 293-2379
Fax: 293-3507
clerk@mtvernonme.org
Mon 8am-6pm
Tue, Wed, & Thu 7am-3pm
Fri, Sat & Sun - Closed

Town Clerk & Tax Collector

Heather Wheeler @ 293-2379
clerk@mtvernonme.org

Deputy Clerk

Rachel Meader @ 293-2379
deputyclerk@mtvernonme.org

Treasurer

Kerry Casey @ 293-2379
treasurer@mtvernonme.org
Mon, Wed 10-12

Select Board

selectboard@mtvernonme.org

Anna Libby @ 951-2385
anna@mtvernonme.org

Paul Crockett @ 293-3000
paul@mtvernonme.org

Robert Grenier @ 293-2783
bob@mtvernonme.org

Select Board Admin. Assistant

Alice Counts @ 293-1105
Cell @ 714-403-6076
alice@mtvernonme.org
Mon, Tue & Wed 7am-3pm

**Select Board Meetings are held
every other Monday at the Town
Hall Office @ 1997 North Road**

Warrant @ 6:30 pm
Regular Town Business @ 7:00pm

**Planning Board Meetings are
held the 3rd Tuesday of each
month at the Dr Shaw Memorial
Library @ 344 Pond Road**

TOWN DEPARTMENT STAFF

Animal Control Officer

Trish Davis @ 491-0410

Cemetery Sexton

Bob Grenier @ 293-2783
bob@mtvernonme.org

Code Enforcement Officer and Plumbing Inspector

Bill Butler Work: @ 293-2636
Cell: 446-6541
mtvernonceo@gmail.com
Tuesdays 8am-4pm

Fire Chief

Jason Beckler @ 293-2114
(non-emergencies)

General Assistance

Anna Libby @ 951-2385
anna@mtvernonme.org

Health Officer

Daniel K. Onion @ 293-2076

Rescue Director

Pat Rawson @ 293-2597
(non-emergencies)

Road Commissioner

Lee Dunn @ 242-5828

Tax Assessor

Roger Peppard @ 293-1105
3rd Thursday of each month
Call Town Office for Appointment
assessor@mtvernonme.org

Transfer Station

Megan Goucher @ 213-3523
Sat & Sun 8:30 am - Noon

Select Board Zoom link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87858050830?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87858050830?pwd=bngyQmxxa3E0NFQ1SW82YVozak1JZz09)
[pwd=bngyQmxxa3E0NFQ1SW82YVozak1JZz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87858050830?pwd=bngyQmxxa3E0NFQ1SW82YVozak1JZz09)

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library 293-2565

Website: drshawlibrary.org
Email: librarian@drshawlibrary.org

Mon 3pm-6pm,
Wed 9am-12pm & 3pm-7pm
Sat 10am-3pm

*Masks Required.
Curbside always available.
Call or email us in advance.*

Mt. Vernon Post Office Hours Retail Window

Mon-Fri 7am-10am, 11am-2pm
Sat 9am-11am

Newsletter

All articles to be submitted by 25th
of each month to

alice@mtvernonme.org

Paid Business Advertisements

- ◇ Business Card Size \$15/month
- ◇ 1/4 page \$25/month
- ◇ 1/2 page \$45/month
- ◇ Full page \$90/month

Select Board Meeting is now live:

You can find the link on
MtVernonME.org under Govern-
ment. Scroll down to the bottom or
click on this link: [Mount Vernon,
Maine LIVE](#)

April Dates to Remember:

- **04-01-22—April Fool's Day**
- **04-04-22—Broadband Committee (Zoom) meeting at 06:30 - 07:30PM**
- **04-07-22—Minnehonk Ridge Riders Snow Mobile Club in Community Center at 7:00PM**
- **04-06-22—Community Center Board of Trustees in Community Center at 7:00PM**
- **04-09-22—Broadband Committee Meeting in Community Center from 11:00AM-12:00PM**
- **04-11-22—Select Board Meeting in the Town Hall at 7:00PM**
- **04-13-22—Broadband Committee (Zoom) meeting at 06:30 - 07:30PM**
- **04-17-22—Easter**
- **04-18-22—Tax Day**
- **04-19-22—Planning Board Meeting in the Dr Shaw Memorial Library at 7:00PM**
- **04-20-22—Mount Vernon Republican Committee at 7:00PM**
- **04-20-22—Broadband Committee (Zoom) meeting at 06:30 - 07:30 PM**
- **04-21-22—Tax Assessor is in town. Make your appointment early at 293-2379**
- **04-21-22—Public Hearing for Ordinance Review of Solar Farms and Fireworks at 6:30PM**
- **04-25-22—Select Board Meeting in the Town Hall at 7:00PM**
- **04-27-22—Broadband Committee (Zoom) meeting at 06:30 - 07:30PM**

May Dates to Remember:

- **05-01-22—Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**
- **05-04-22—Community Center Board of Trustees in the Community Center at 7:00PM**
- **05-04-22—Broadband Committee (Zoom) meeting at 06:30 - 07:30PM**
- **05-05-22—Cinco de Mayo**
- **05-08-22—Mother's Day**
- **05-09-22—Select Board Meeting in the Town Hall at 7:00PM**
- **05-11-22—Safety Board Meeting in the Community Center at 6:00PM**
- **05-17-22—Planning Board Meeting in the Dr Shaw Memorial Library at 7:00PM**
- **05-18-22—Mount Vernon Republican Committee in the Community Center at 7:00PM**
- **05-18-22—Broadband Committee (Zoom) meeting at 06:30 - 07:30PM**
- **05-19-22—Tax Assessor is in town. Make your appointment early at 293-2379**
- **05-21-22—Armed Forces Day**
- **05-23-22—Select Board Meeting in the Town Hall at 7:00PM**
- **05-30-22—Memorial Day**

If you have a meeting you want to post, please contact Alice Counts at 207-293-1105 or 714-403-6076 or Alice@MTVernonME.org

From the Mount Vernon Select Board

Greetings to our friends and neighbors,

The redwing blackbirds and woodcocks are back in town, the sap is running, and I know some of you have crocuses blooming. It must be spring!

This is a busy season for the selectboard as we prepare for town meeting. Please save the date! We'll be meeting at 9 A.M. on Saturday, June 18th at the Mount Vernon Elementary School. We look forward to gathering then.

There are a couple of other dates coming up much sooner that may be of interest to all of you. Our Broadband committee has been examining different options for the town and is hosting a couple of public meetings to share updates, get feedback, and answer your questions. These will be held on April 4th (on Zoom), and April 9th (at the Community Center). Check out the town website for more information and links.

Some other projects are ongoing as well. You may notice some activity happening around the Blake Hill Bridge. Engineering work is being completed so we can put out an RFP to make the necessary improvements to the bridge. We are hoping to move this project along quickly so it can be included in the next budget.

The budget and ordinance review committees are meeting often to prepare for the town report and town warrant. We thank these groups for their efforts and community service! We are also thankful for each of you in town who help serve the community by sitting on committees, dropping off food to a neighbor who needs a hand, organizing fun public gatherings, and much more. It is all of these efforts together that add up and help make Mount Vernon a great place to live.

Wishing you all a happy spring,

Anna and the Selectboard

Broadband Committee—APRIL 2022

Your Mt Vernon Broadband committee has received proposals from four internet service providers (ISPs) and is organizing public meetings to review them with you. We need your feedback to guide the efforts we take in the weeks ahead. A summary of the town's core concerns is available on [the broadband website](#) linked to [the town website](#).

The first meeting will be held on Zoom at 7 pm Monday April 4. A link to join this meeting will be posted on the broadband website and distributed via email to those homes that have given us permission to contact them. They will also be posted around town. A second meeting will be held in person at the Mt Vernon Community Center at 11:00 am Saturday morning April 9 shortly after the first Saturday Breakfast of the 2022 season. We also expect to provide Zoom and Channel 7 taped coverage of the meeting for those who cannot attend.

The fourth option is to defer action if none of the four proposals is acceptable to the town. At the meetings, we will discuss the benefits and costs of the proposals, ownership options, and subscription fees. We will discuss ways to meet the town matching fund obligations for grant applications by using bond financing, subscriber fees or property taxes or a combination. No decision on an option will be made except after authorization of the voters of Mt Vernon.

In a nutshell, here is what the town will be considering:

Option 1: Fiber to the Premises. We have proposals from three Internet Service Providers to hook up fiber optic wire to your premises. Proposals from Axiom and Matrix would involve building a new fiber network for the entire town and one from Spectrum would extend a fiber network to those locations that currently do not have access to Spectrum cable.

Option 2: Fixed Wireless. A local company out of Rockland Maine (RedZone) has provided a proposal to affix transmitters to cell towers and repeaters to send a wireless signal that would reach Mt Vernon residents.

Options 3: A third option, proposed by Spectrum, would cover the entire town with a combination of cable-fiber hybrid (existing cabled locations) and fiber (currently uncabled locations) by changing the subscription relationship so that the town leases the entire network from Spectrum at a fixed charge per month.

Option 4: Defer Action: Town voters may choose not to endorse any of these proposals.

We plan 90-minute meetings with one half the time allowed for questions. Email or online surveys will be sent out to get an updated sense of the community's preferences. Questions can be sent to the committee using the website or email mtvbrdbnd@gmail.com

Questions can be sent to the committee using the broadband website or email mtvbrdbnd@gmail.com.

*Links for zoom meetings can be found on the Broadband Website or by emailing a request to mtvbrdbnd@gmail.com.

How to find the Broadband Website

Go to the landing page of mtvernonme.org and click on Mt. Vernon Broadband Committee.



Life in a small town USA

**** NOTICE: The town office will be closed on Monday, October 10, 2022 for TRIO training. ****

*** Mt. Vernon Broadband Committee ***

This committee was established to ensure the availability of reliable, affordable, and equitable high-speed broadband services to all Mt Vernon residents. Follow the link to discover more about this committee and its journey to bridge the gap in the digital divide.

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - MT. VERNON FOOD BANK

As 2021 has come to an end, The First Baptist Church Mt. Vernon Food Bank volunteers would like to thank all those in our community who have so graciously donated throughout the year. Mt. Vernon has always been very generous, caring and thoughtful in helping us support those in our community who are in need and it is greatly appreciated.

The Mt. Vernon Food Bank is located at the First Baptist Church at 321 Pond Road, Mount Vernon. It is open on Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30. Because of COVID, we continue to adapt to changing conditions; while we were able to invite customers into the food bank during the second half of 2021, we began offering curbside only on January 15. We serve the communities of Mount Vernon, Readfield, Fayette, and Vienna. You can reach us on Saturday mornings at 293-2141. If you need a ride to the food bank or would like food picked up, call Neighbors Driving Neighbors at 860-0677.

Thank you, First Baptist Church Mt. Vernon Food Bank Volunteers.

ART WORK ON DISPLAY!

Art Work from the Mount Vernon Elementary School and Photographic Images provided by Gary Fish at Phish Photography are now on display at the Mount Vernon Town Hall. The 20"x30" images are on sale for \$100 and the 12"x18" images are \$50 and will be on a rotating basis. Come by and check them out!

Please contact Alice Counts in the Selectmen's Office for further information.

HANDICAP EQUIPMENT FOR LOAN

Handicap Equipment Available for loan at NO CHARGE to Mount Vernon Residents:

Have friends visiting from out of state, have a temporary or long term need?

Mt. Vernon Rescue has a supply of hospital/rehab equipment for anyone to use at no charge. We have a hospital bed, wheel chairs, walkers, commodes, canes, crutches and shower seats. If you have need for any of these, call Pat Rawson, 293-2597 or Leslie Grenier at 293-2783 or Alice Counts (Admin Asst) at office: 207-293-1105, cell: 714-403-6076, Alice@mtVernonME.org

We ask that you keep these loaner items in the Town of Mount Vernon and return them to the Mt Vernon Rescue when you no longer have the need for them so we can loan them out to the next person.

HAVE YOU NOTICED THE RED SHED NEXT TO THE TOWN OFFICE?

The Mount Vernon Community Partnership received grants from AARP and the Onion Foundation and bought the shed so MV residents could borrow tools they don't have but need. Now we have to fill it with gardening and cooking tools. If you have some tools you're not using, let us know. Email Tom Ward at Tward0218@me.com or call him at 293-0116 OR email Sandy Wright at scwright@fairpoint.net or call her at 293-2582



**MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP CORP.**

**TOOL LIBRARY
OPENING SOON WITH
YOUR HELP**



**Mount Vernon Community
Partnership Corporation, Inc. (CPC)**

NEW BUSINESS DIRECTORY IS COMING

The Community Partnership has published a business directory listing businesses in Mount Vernon and Vienna since 2008 and has printed a new one every four years. Our last directory was printed in 2018, and it's time to do another one. We print out 500 and give them out for free and put them in the town website. HAVE YOU OPENED A NEW BUSINESS SINCE 2018 IN MOUNT VERNON OR VIENNA? We need the following: • The name of the business • What the business does • The name of the owner • The address, phone number, and email address of the business Send the information to scwright@fairpoint.net. WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO PUTTING YOUR BUSINESS IN THE NEW DIRECTORY



**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!



BS From the TS



Hello from the MTV Transfer Station!!

The share shack is open. I've been trying to keep it as tidy as possible. Just a reminder, PLEASE NO:

- Stained clothes
- Used pillows
- Mattresses
- Couches
- Televisions
- Printers
- Computers
- Half working toasters...

If it is something you question, is barely used or just doesn't work for you and it's passed the original return policy, please come explain that to one of us. We are very understanding.

Note: Televisions, Printers and Computers can be dropped off at the trailer for a small fee.

If you all noticed a new gentleman standing beside me, you aren't seeing things it's the new guy Leo. Welcome to the Crew Leo!!

Thanks all for taking the time to read.

See you at the next dumping. (Literally)

Yours truly,

TS Crew.

Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting of 02-28-2022

Board Members Present: Paul Crockett (Chair), Anna Libby, Robert Grenier

Support Staff & Guests: Alice Counts (Administrative Assistant), Mark Gilbert (Ch 7), Kerry Casey (Treasurer)

Guests via Zoom: Bill Rosenberg, Chuck Wright, Ken Elliot, John Daugherty (Mission Broadband Inc), Sue Corbitt (National Equity Center)

Select Board Members Signed Weekly Warrant (6:30-7:00)

Meeting Called to Order

- SB Meeting was Called to Order by SB Crockett at 7:00pm

Meeting Minutes of 02-14-2022

- Motion by SB Grenier to accept the meeting minutes from 02-14-22, 2nd by SB Crockett. Motion Carried. Vote was 3-0. PASS

Broadband Committee Review of Proposals:

- **National Digital Equity Center** – Susan Corbitt's proposal provides digital inclusion, equity, affordability (don't leave anyone behind) and training. You want to make sure as many people as possible are included.
 - There is a one-time fee of \$2500 to start. It is common to find grant funding sources for this type of application. Included Digital equity act. Sue was unsure of what this means for Maine. Also private philanthropy, John T Gorman may be able to fund. Sue will provide funding sources. Also works with department of education to get broadband in the hands of households that need devices or hot spots. Make sure that everyone has access to the internet. Have recently worked with the Town of Searsport. Gave them a blueprint on how it could work. Affordability Program if they meet the qualification. This town is a great example. \$30 discount for families that qualify for reduced funding. ACB program, provided a \$50 subsidy.
 - If they were qualified under the EBB program, they qualified for the ACB program. This may not be enough, this has to be looked at.
 - Bill Rosenberg asked for a vote on digital equity. Paul wants to hold off until the end of the meeting. We need to focus on 1) technical and financial. 2) helping get grant funding. Need to evaluate proposals and grants funding.
- **Mission Broadband Inc** - John Dougherty said that Broadband intent is to help solve broadband across the United States with a Return on investment and Match up Private and Public Funding. We need to Start with a survey to understand where the community is at with regards to Availability, Affordable, Training, Design, Pricing, Technology today and moving forward.
 - RFP – needs to bring the community and the Select Board with you. It will come to some kind of vote. Community effort, doable, public or private. Where do you want to be moving forward, thru the years. He proposes to Represent the town as an Adjunct Staff.
 - SB Crockett: Some towns invest or own the fiber. Some Towns not. What do you see with other towns. Can't imagine a lot of town want to have a municipally owned network.
 - John Daugherty: One of the challenges is when you get into Bonds, you have to have an asset, which would be one of the poles. You can give that money to a service provider if you don't want to own.
 - SB Crockett: Could we own the fiber on the pole and get a different company to provide service? Can you have multiple providers?

Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 02-28-22 (Cont.)

- John Daugherty: You really don't want a lot of different people with their hands in it. Currently working on broadband in China.
- SB Crockett: what is your expertise with grant funding.
- John Daugherty: Connect Maine doesn't have enough money. 100 million plus coming from treasury and 100 million plus coming from infrastructure.
- Sue Corbitt: Connect Maine Authority has spent last few years updating, working hand in hand with Maine Connectivity and authorized \$15 million.
- SB Crockett: Mount Vernon has 30% (unserved) whereas Vienna has 100% unserved. Concern that the 0% will get all the grant money.
- John Daugherty: ARP less concerned with money already spent. Concerned with the underserved.
- Bill Rosenberg: DSL is not necessarily qualified as being served by broadband.
- SB Crockett: the sooner we put in the better the chance?
- John Daugherty: Not necessarily. This round is 15 mil and they will probably get 50 mil in requests. Speed test is very important and should be pushed.
- Bill Rosenberg: KP5 – Key performance indicators. The whole town is involved in buying internet.
- KPI's:
 - Customer Service – How quickly is the call answered, resolution, trouble, installation, maintenance, repair.
 - SLA Service Level: Uptime of equipment, what happens when power is out, how many upstreams are coming out of the office.
- SB Crockett: Not going to immediately vote on these.
- Bill Rosenberg: according to his spreadsheet, the Select Board has approved funding with \$3500 leftover. We could pay the Digital engagement.
- SB Grenier: how much for mission?
- Bill Rosenberg: 14-15K for Mission to get us started.
- John Daugherty: will approve every effort.
- SB Grenier: ARPA funds are not specific, they are guidelines. Previously they were to be used for purposed for which they were funded. We can use them for whatever our need is. The legislative body must tell us how to spend these funds. The Towns people should have a say in this. BB, Bridge, Owl? The auditor will want to know how this money is spent. Bob has consulted with Garrett Corbin at MMA.
- Bill Rosenberg: The warrant that was approved at the last town meeting was not enough to cover this expenditure?

Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 02-28-22 (Cont.)

Blake Hill Bridge Design Proposal from Wentworth Partners.

- If we don't get an engineer quickly we won't be able to get this done with year.
- Paul and Bob are fine to get going on this asap. It was decided to wait until next town meeting.
- Can't accept bids until the engineering is done.

Admin Budget Update

- Need budget updates from all Departments

TRIO

- TRIO: Generated a ticket. Ready for training, Monday or Wednesday for Kerry.

Other Business

- Audit: Kerry has completed what they have asked for so far. We need the audit report by the end of April.
- SB Crockett to send the Budget Report to Alice for distribution.
- Lee Dunn, Road Commissioner is getting surface gravel today.
- Paul to contact Nancy Rines to see if Kennebec County is spending money on Broadband. Need list of what their current priorities are.
- FEMA: Not quite out of the woods yet, but we are on the right trail. They now understand where we got the numbers.
- Aging In Place – Maine Community Foundation and John T Gorman foundation grants to be submitted.
- Motion by SB Libby to sign the Maine Community Foundation and John T Gorman Foundation grant letters, 2nd by SB Grenier. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0 **PASS**
- Alice Counts to send out the Grant letters for both the Maine Community Foundation and John T Gorman Foundation.
- Nancy Hemphill has volunteered to fix the Welcome to Mount Vernon sign on the North Road. May need major work.
- Verizon – need to check the bill for the Transfer Station.
- End of Maine Unclaimed Property week. MaineUnclaimedProperty.gov
- SB Libby made Announcement for March 10th – 7 Lakes Watershed meeting.
- Dr Onion – will be renewed as the Town's Health Officer
- Transfer Station – Needs Repair to the road, mud. SB Crockett to reach out to Lee Dunn. Also Need magnetic signs to put on recycling doors.

Motion by SB Crockett to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(E) for Consultations with legal counsel at 8:18PM, 2nd by SB Libby. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0 PASS.

Executive Session

- Executive Session Ended at 8:44

Results from Executive Session

- Motion by SB Crockett to appoint Tom Carey as Mount Vernon Town Lawyer, 2nd by SB Grenier. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Adjourn

- Motion by SB Libby to Adjourn at 8:45, 2nd by SB Grenier, Motion Carried. Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 03-14-2022

Board Members Present: Paul Crockett (Chair), Anna Libby, Robert Grenier

Support Staff: Alice Counts (Admin Asst), Mark Gilbert (Ch 7), Kerry Casey (Treasurer), Heather Wheeler (Town Clerk)

Broadband Committee: Keith Coulling, Bill Rosenberg, Chuck Wright, Carl Rogers, Andie Zuniga, Ken Elliot, Scott Herrick, Dan Works

Select Board Members Signed Weekly Warrant (6:50-7:22)

Meeting Called to Order

- SB Meeting was Called to Order by SB Crockett at 7:23 PM

Meeting Minutes of 02-28-2022

- Unavailable. Postponed to next meeting on 03-28-2022

Broadband:

- **Casco Bay Study** - One-Third of the Town of Mount Vernon is uncabled and uncabled means having either internet access that is substandard (underserved) or no internet access (unserved) according to the Study of nearby towns including: Leeds, Vienna, Fayette, Readfield, Wayne and Mount Vernon.
- **Mission Broadband Inc.**, in Bangor – Hired to evaluate 4 proposals:
 - Two (2) optical Fiber
 - One (1) hybrid
 - One (1) unlicensed fixed fiber
 - Terms and conditions \$14,500, not to exceed \$15,000
 - SB Crockett personal supports and motioned to sign Mission consulting agreement and proposal, 2nd by SB Libby. Motioned Carried. Vote was 3-0. **PASS**
- National Digital Equity Center – supports Digital Equity and Inclusion:
 - Provides training to low income residents
 - Helps with equipment and subsidies
 - Consulting Agreement is \$2500
 - SB Crockett motioned to sign the agreement for National Digital Equity Center, 2nd by SB Libby. Motioned Carried. Vote was 3-0. **PASS**
 - SB Crockett will scan the agreement, Bill Rosenberg will send and give originals to Alice Counts.
- Blake Hill Bridge Design Proposal from Wentworth Partners.
 - GEO Technical
 - RFP ready next meeting, includes full gamet
 - Retainer is 50% and due upon signed contract
 - Motion by SB Crockett to sign proposal with retainer of \$15,300, 2nd by SB Libby. Motion Carried. Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 03-14-2022 (Cont.)

Appointments

- Motion by SB Libby to Appoint the following to the Broadband Committee, 2nd by SB Crockett. Motion Carried. Vote was 3-0. **PASS**
 - Andie Zuniga
 - Keith Coulling
 - Ken Elliott
 - Scott Herrick
 - Bill Rosenberg
 - Dann Works
 - Chuck Wright
 - Carl Rogers
 - Matthew Zeh
- Motion by SB Libby to Appoint Dan Onion as the Town Health Officer with Term Ending 06-30-2025, 2nd by SB Crockett. Motion Carried. Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

TRIO

- Web version to be downloaded on Wednesday for a 2 week trial before GoLive.

Other Business

- **Audit** – Kerry Casey reported that we are on track and the auditors have been provided with everything they requested.
- **Town Warrant in June:**
 - **Computer Purchase** – SB Crockett stated that the entire office should be looked at to evaluate what computers need to be updated.
 - **Security Cameras** – need for the lobby, basement and all exterior doors.
 - **UPS** – several units needed.
 - **Anti-Virus** software – for the entire office. Cyber security – the town is vulnerable. SB Crockett suggested two-factor authentication, whereby a text can be sent to personal phones. This will all be covered in the new Office 365 program.
 - **Library** – The library submitted an email asking if the town is considering hiring a town handyman as they have several projects that could be handled by such a position (safety checks, landscaping, etc.) The Select Board plans to consider this throughout the budgeting process.
- Budget Committee – Pat Rawson and Tyler Dunn haven't received SB Crockett's spreadsheet. Alice Counts to send them each a copy as well as a reminder to all committees about the end of month deadline.
- Mask Policy – At the end of February, Dr Onion recommended waiting another two weeks until mid-March.
 - SB Grenier motioned to relax this mandate, making masks optional for the Town Hall. 2nd by SB Libby. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**
 - SB Crockett will make a new sign and send to Alice Counts for posting.

Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes 03-14-2022 (Cont.)

- Tax Maps – Andy Dube with Diversified Drafting had questions
 - Abandoned winter roads?
 - ---- Roads with public easement shown as abandoned.
 - Is his payment of \$2500 available?
 - General Administration
- Town Websites Proposals
 - Revize – Waldoboro
 - Civic Plus – Belgrade, readfield
 - A-Z Computing – Madison
 - Review Proposals Next Meeting.
 - SB Crockett to share information via email
- Price to Move Generator and Antenna – Call Dan MacKenzie for a quote.
- Issue with department bills being sent to private residences. Kerry Case to reach out to resolve this. Bills should be sent to Town buildings. This is a legal issue and causes delay in payment of bills.
- Trash fees – warning of escalation of fees possibly 2-3 times as much. Need to look at contract for waste management and Triano.
- Fire Department – Boil Certificate was forwarded to the Fire Chief
- Electric – possibly increase of 30%
- Budget Doc Printer Ink – Need to stock up on toner before prices increase.
- Census was 1721
- Safety Manual needs approval
- Keys for file cabinets – SB Crockett to order these
- Policies Manual – Approval Needed.
- Sand and Salt Shed – needs to be looked at for structural changes/repairs. Bob to coordinate this.
- MMA Safety Audit coming up first week in May 2022.
- SB Grenier asked for 6 more copies of LUO draft.

Adjourn

- Motion by SB Grenier to Adjourn at 8:30, 2nd by SB Libby, Motion Carried. Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 03-28-22

Board Members Present: Paul Crockett (Chair), Anna Libby, Robert Grenier

Support Staff: Alice Counts (Admin Asst), Mark Gilbert (Ch 7), Kerry Casey (Treasurer)

Guests: Barry Skilling, Doug Gordon

Broadband Committee: Bill Rosenberg

Ordinance Review Committee: Sue Herman

Select Board Members Signed Weekly Warrant (6:30-6:50)

Meeting Called to Order

- SB Meeting was Called to Order by SB Crockett at 7:01 PM

Meeting Minutes of 02-28-2022 and 03-14-2022

- SB Libby requested the address change from “1997 North Road”, to “2 Main Street” and that the Term Limit be noted for the Town Health Officer on the March 14, 2022, Minutes.
- SB Crockett wanted to Clarify the statement under Other Business pertaining to the UPS. It needs to be changed from “2 units” to “several units” and under Computer Purchase, changed from “SB Crockett stated that the entire office should be looked for New Computers” to “SB Crockett stated that the entire office should be looked at to evaluate what computers need to be updated.” on the March 14, 2022, Minutes.
- Motion by SB Crockett to accept the meeting minutes from 02-28-2022 and 03-14-2022 as amended, 2nd by SB Libby, Motion Carried. Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

New Tax Maps

- Andy Dube:
 - requested that going forward, all map corrections be updated with a red pen for easier visibility.
 - will order the new map copies from Copies Etc. and they should be ready by tomorrow.
 - will provide the pdf if we need more copies.
 - asked for budget of \$1200, SB Crockett upped it to \$1500

Broadband:

- Mission Broadband to select vendors. 4 proposals. Responded
- Two public meetings, April 4th zoom, Saturday April 9th at the community center. Content will be introduction to proposals and trade-offs to consider. Encourage attendance. We need to start hearing from residents. Meetings will be recorded
- Broadband Committee will narrow down field from the four proposals.
- Goal to get with SB for more engagement towards the beginning of May.
- SB Crockett stated that we need to have this by Late April for the Town Warrant article. Critical timing with the vendors.

Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 03-28-22 (Cont.)

- Bill Rosenberg – critical that we get the information to the Town so that the committee and select board and residents are on the same page.
- Wednesday, March 30th is a practice session for the Saturday meeting.
- First meeting is a more factual meeting where we can compare apples to oranges.
- Broadband job responsibilities are divided as follows: Ken Elliot is the Communication guy, Chuck Wright is the Finance guy, Scott Herrick is the Technology guy.

Status Of Various Internal Policies And Update

- Bill Butler recommended change to ordinance.
- SB Crockett asked if section 8 Financial Policies Ordinance could be changed to a Policy. Sue Herman said this is an MMA question.
- SB Crockett – Alice to Ask heather how many days ahead of the election does she need to know who is working the election.
- Time and one-half for regular part time employees when working on the holidays listed in the policy.
- Policy for bulletin board and advertisements

Website Information (3 New Vendors)

- Town Websites Proposals
 - Revize – Waldoboro
 - Civic Plus – Belgrade, Readfield
 - A-Z Computing – Madison
- The first two produce very similar quality websites. The 3rd one is lesser quality but much more reasonable
- Alice Counts created a spreadsheet to plot the differences between all three website providers. SB Crockett and Alice Counts will work on completing this spreadsheet and have something ready for the next meeting.

Solar Farm Ordinance (A Work In Progress)

- **Map** – the Select Board would like a large map for Lobby. USDA Natural Resource Conservation provided a map where all the prime farmlands are colored and easy to identify.
- **Prime Farmland and Farmland of state-wide significance.** Sue Herman is trying to gather information on how restrictive this use is. They have identified some land in Mount Vernon, for instance the Town-Owned Former Transfer Station/Dump. Hopefully Sue will have this information before the upcoming Public Hearing for the Ordinance review on April 21st at 7:00PM where input from the community will be heard. ORC Generally supported this but did not want the Farmington style. They want a more balanced approach
- Readfield is restrictive. Ordinance states that Solar Farms can't cover more than 20% of farmland.
- Kennebec Land Trust sent several different approaches.

Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 03-28-22 (Cont.)

Land Use Ordinance

- Sue Herman would like to keep the format as is and clean up some things that have been identified.
- SB Crockett stated he would like to revisit the new format next year as the review process is quite involved, requiring two ORC members to review a section at a time.

Delineators, Speed Bumps Or Traffic Calming Devices.

- State law says there is liability for anything that is placed in the public way pursuant to an ordinance which the state recommends. Sue Herman stated that the Select Board has the authority to pass an ordinance without going to a public meeting. Kerry Casey asked whether it makes any difference that the DOT put them out?

Budget work

- Scott Herrick and Paul Crockett are working on the IT portion of the budget for town hall and the fire department.

Updates on Trio, Audit, Etc.

- There will be more Trio training on Thursday. Go Live a week from Monday.
- How soon can we schedule to cut over to hosted version. Bob to check.
- Kerry needs to review the asset list.

Other Business

- Transfer Station –
 - Kerry Casey mentioned their hours are up.
 - SB Crockett inquired as to whether the manager and attendants have the proper Gear, clothing, Steel Toed Shoes, Heavy Weight Jackets, And Orange Safety Vests. We need to take an inventory to make sure the employees are properly outfitted.
- Budget Meeting on Saturday 10:00 AM
- Town Meeting
 - SB Crockett motioned that the Mount Vernon Town Meeting will be held at the Mount Vernon Elementary School in the auditorium on June 18th at 9:00 AM, 2nd Libby, Motioned Carried. Vote was 3-0. PASS.

Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 03-28-22 (Cont.)

- Road Improvements
 - SB Grenier spoke with Eric, the Readfield Town Manager, who recommended:
 - going full bore, hiring an engineer, core boring everywhere to determine where the issues are, going out for bids, so the Town has an idea as to what we need to ask for a bond to cover all our roads that are in need. Speculative Costs of Engineering are about 25-30K. We need sound factual information to obtain bids.
 - Determine which paved or dirt roads need improvement and then go for a Bond.
 - Form a Road Committee and encouraged the use of a Bond. Readfield has an extremely good capital plan. They pulled their Bond more than 15 years ago and their roads are still in good condition.
 - Cut back the growth from the edge of the road, as far back as is allowed.
 - Most of these roads are carriage roads. Need to find out what is under the road and plan the proper application for improvement.

Adjourn

- SB Grenier motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:10, 2nd by SB Libby, Motion Carried. Vote was 3-0. **PASS.**

Mount Vernon Community Center

Thought You Should Know.....From the 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 me 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!

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library
April 2022
Submitted by Mary Anne Libby
Phone: 293-2565. Email: librarian@drshawlibrary.org

“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!

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library (Cont.)

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:

1. The Cornell lab (birds): <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/how-to-learn-bird-songs-and-calls/>
2. PBS (frogs): <https://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/frogs-the-thin-green-line-additional-web-resources/4855/>
3. Northwood Frog Call Phenology (audio infographic of frog calls):
<https://bluesyemre.com/2020/05/18/northwoods-frog-call-phenology-cable-natural-history-museum/>
4. Trees (for kids): https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/projects/fall_foliage/kids/treeguide.html
5. 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?

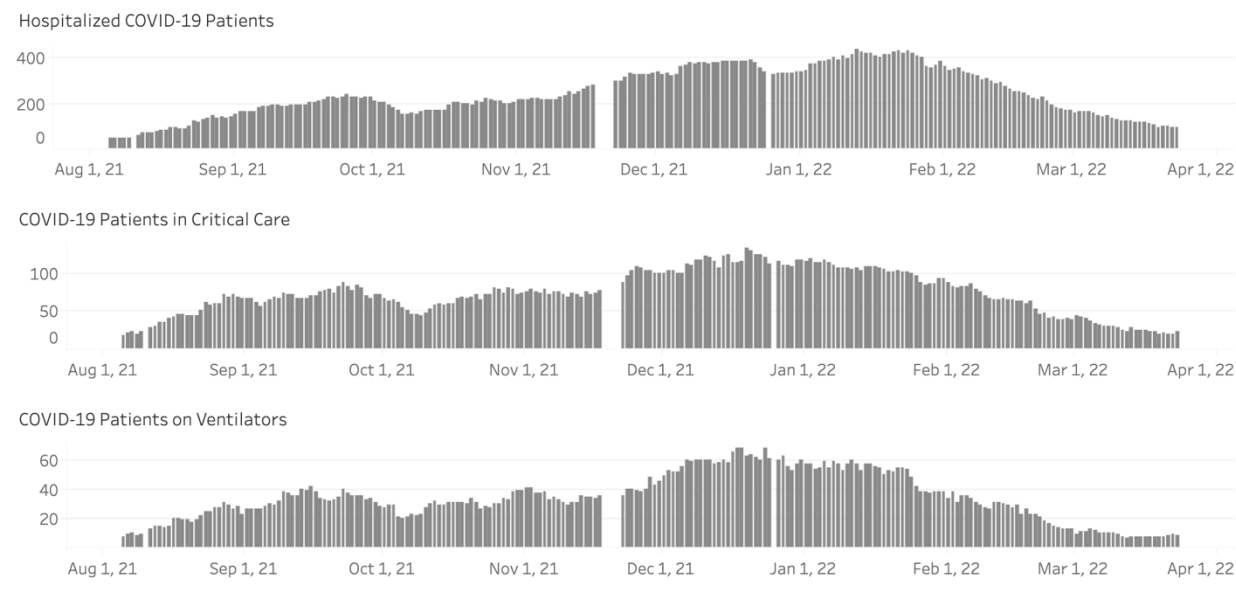
COVID19's Next Tricks?
March 25, 2022
Dan Onion, MD, MPH
Mt. Vernon/Vienna/Fayette Health Officer
293-2076; dkonion@gmail.com

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. Shaw. 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.



COVID19's Next Tricks? (Cont.)

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%s, or worse, high 80%s. 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.

https://m.emailupdates.cdc.gov/rest/head/mirrorPage/@U_A2Wa7Cx7qfuGISH4zH1Xk9xk2A7RAIMU3qQ7Tly5O7_6PIMVa2rcB4-KqLDqjZuRaJWEAZfw1rTxmjyiyOYc6Se21Hv-nzPW2d5pPcL7glJS1-.html

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.

ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

At the request of the Select Board, the Ordinance Review Committee has prepared draft ordinances relating to Fireworks and Solar Farms as well as some additional topics. We are continuing to tweak the drafts and have scheduled a public hearing for April 21, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Please watch for details which will be posted on the town website as well as Flying Pond Variety, the town library, and at the Town Hall. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the current working drafts, please contact Susan Herman, Chair of the Ordinance Review Committee at gscherman@fairpoint.net.