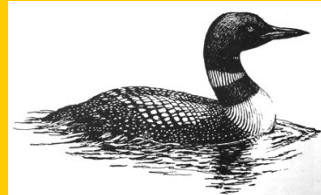


Town of Mount Vernon Community Newsletter



www.mtvernonme.org

May 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 @ 293-1103
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 9am-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/82567334190?
pwd=QzMrMTNxNmpydXgzVVdST0h5aFgwUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82567334190?pwd=QzMrMTNxNmpydXgzVVdST0h5aFgwUT09)

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:

Press ctrl Click on this link: [Mount
Vernon, Maine LIVE](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82567334190?pwd=QzMrMTNxNmpydXgzVVdST0h5aFgwUT09) to reach the
Select Board Meeting Zoom Link.

May Dates to Remember:

- **05-01-22—Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**
- **05-03-22—National Teacher Day**
- **05-10-22—Men's Breakfast in the Community Center at 7:00AM**
- **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—Men's Breakfast in the Community Center at 7:00AM**
- **05-17-22—Planning Board Meeting in the Dr Shaw Memorial Library at 7:00PM**
- **05-18-22—Mount Vernon Republican Committee at 6:00PM**
- **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**
- **05-21-22—Meet the Candidates in the Community Center at 11:00 AM**
- **05-23-22—Select Board Meeting in the Town Hall at 7:00PM**
- **05-24-22—Men's Breakfast in the Community Center at 7:00AM**
- **05-25-22—Broadband Committee (Zoom) meeting at 06:30 - 07:30PM**
- **05-30-22—Memorial Day**
- **05-31-22—Men's Breakfast in the Community Center at 7:00AM**

June Dates to Remember:

- **06-01-22—Broadband Committee (Zoom) meeting at 06:30 - 07:30PM**
- **06-01-22—Community Center Board of Trustees in Community Center at 7:00PM**
- **06-06-22—Select Board Meeting in the Town Hall at 7:00PM**
- **06-07-22—Men's Breakfast in the Community Center at 7:00AM**
- **06-14-22—Men's Breakfast in the Community Center at 7:00AM**
- **06-14-22—Election—in Community Center Polls Open at 8:00am**
- **06-15-22—Broadband Committee (Zoom) meeting at 06:30 - 07:30PM**
- **06-15-22—Mount Vernon Republican Committee at 7:00PM**
- **06-16-22—Tax Assessor is in town. Make your appointment early at 293-2379**
- **06-18-22—Annual Town Meeting at the Mount Vernon Elementary School at 9am**
- **04-20-22—Select Board Meeting in the Town Hall at 7:00PM**
- **06-21-22—Planning Board Meeting in the Dr Shaw Memorial Library at 7:00PM**
- **06-21-22—Men's Breakfast in the Community Center at 7:00AM**
- **06-28-22—Men's Breakfast in the Community Center at 7:00AM**

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

**Athletic Committee
2022 Maranacook Area T-Ball Schedule**

May 7th

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Wayne @ Fielder's Choice | 8:00 AM |
| Readfield1 @ Readfield2 | 9:00 AM |
| White Duck @ Mount Vernon | 9:00 AM |

June 4th

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Mount Vernon @ Wayne | 10:00 AM |
| Readfield1 @ Fielder's Choice | 8:00 AM |
| White Duck @ Readfield2 | 9:00 AM |

May 14th

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Wayne @ White Duck | 8:00 AM |
| Readfield1 @ Mount Vernon | 9:00 AM |
| Fielder's Choice @ Readfield 2 | 9:00 AM |

June 11th

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Wayne @ Readfield1 | 9:00 AM |
| Readfield2 @ Mount Vernon | 9:00 AM |
| Fielder's Choice @ White Duck | 8:00 AM |

May 21st

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Readfield2 @ Wayne | 10:00 AM |
| White Duck @ Readfield1 | 9:00 AM |
| Mount Vernon @ Fielder's Choice | 8:00 AM |

June 18th

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Fielder's Choice @ Wayne | 10:00 AM |
| Mount Vernon @ Readfield1 | 9:00 AM |
| Readfield2 @ White Duck | 8:00 AM |

Field Locations

Fielder's Choice & White Duck—Manchester Elementary School, located off McArdle Street

Readfield 1 & 2—Readfield Elementary School, 84 South Road

Wayne—Ladd Recreation Center, 26 Gott Road

Mount Vernon—Mount Vernon Elementary School, 1507 North Road

Coach Information

Fielder's Choice: Tony White, 732-763-5538 t.tristonwhite@gmail.com

Theodore Wood, 207-458-0391 aafarington87@gmail.com

White Duck; Jasmine White, 207-458-6384 jasmine.carey@gmail.com

Brad White, 207-313-6525

Readfield 1: Kolbie Danforth, 207-649-2905 kolbiedanforth@yahoo.com

Readfield 2: Dustin Digmann, 253-229-1498 dustin.digmann@yahoo.com

Wayne: Lisa Toye, 207-620-0862 gmc3342@yahoo.com

Mount Vernon: Felicia Lucas, 207-620-0558 Felicia.lucas@rocketmail.com

Vanessa Buuck, 207-513-8522 vbuuck082005@gmail.com

**Athletic Committee
Rookie Baseball (ages 7-8) Teams Schedule**

Team: Readfield 1 (Creeden)

| Date | Opponent/Town | Location |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 5/7/2022 9:00 AM | Hm Ware-Butler (Readfield 2) | 53 Church Rd, Readfield |
| 5/11/2022 5:30 PM | at Cormier(Oak Hill) | Pleasant Hill Rd, Sabattus |
| 5/14/2022 10:30 AM | Hm Stevensons Strawberry(Wayne) | 53 Church Rd, Readfield |
| 5/18/2022 5:30 PM | at Manchester Field | on McArdle St by FIELDERS CHOICE |
| 5/21/2022 12:30 PM | at Rotary (Winthrop) | David's Field or Clough Field** **will update with correct field. |
| 5/25/2022 5:30 PM | at Litchfield | 2281 Hallowell Rd, Litchfield |
| 28-May | NO GAMES | |
| 1-Jun | BYE | |
| 6/4/2022 8:00 AM | Hm Pinard (Oak Hill) | 53 Church Rd, Readfield |
| 6/8/2022 5:30 PM | Hm Lions (Winthrop) | 53 Church Rd, Readfield |
| 6/11/2022 11:30 AM | Hm Monmouth Fire (Monmouth) | 53 Church Rd, Readfield |
| 6/15/2022 5:30 PM | at TJ's Place (Monmouth) | Chick Ball Park 156 Cobbosseecontee Rd |

Our team's name is listed as Creeden, which is the sponsor.

Let's Go to the Ball Game and support our kids!

MOUNT VERNON YOUTUBE CHANNEL

You can watch the Select Board meeting LIVE now on YouTube at the link below. However if we have enough subscribers, we can name our own link. Please help Mount Vernon to achieve our own dedicated YouTube Link that would end in "Mount Vernon Town" All we need is 100 subscribers, we currently have 18!

Follow this link and then hit the subscribe button. The current URL is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3UCAtx3K5rgMCNAcBCqnLQ/live>

So once we have 100 subscribers, the channel would be something like <https://www.youtube.com/townofmountvernon> instead!

Help is Available to Receive the \$850 Maine Covid Relief Payment

In order to receive the \$850 "Covid Relief Payment" from the State of Maine, one must file a 2021 Maine tax return. A married couple filing a joint return will receive \$1700. There are income limits (\$100,000 single or married filing separate, \$150,000 for Head of Household, \$200,000 for married filing joint), but probably most of you reading this don't fall into those categories.

If you haven't filed your 2021 tax return, that's not a problem. You have until October 31, 2022. And the AARP Tax-Aide Program will help. With the wonderful assistance of our incredible Dr. Shaw Memorial Library librarians, we'll set up times for you to come in to get your tax return done. You may also qualify for other Maine tax credits (Property Tax Fairness Credit, which also applies to renters; and Sales Tax Fairness Credit). These other credits could add significantly to your refund.

If you have already filed your 2021 Maine tax return, you don't have to do anything. You should get a check in the mail sometime this summer (no direct deposit).

Call the library at 293-2565 and leave a message if it is outside of library hours (Mondays 3:00 – 6:00; Wednesdays 9:00 -12:00, 3:00 – 7:00; Saturdays 10:00 – 3:00).

From the Mount Vernon Select Board

The Select Board and the Budget Committee have been working on the preparation of a budget for this year's Town Meeting.

The Two major budget items are the Blake Hill Bridge and Broadband. The Bridge is in the engineering stage. We need to raise \$250,000 this year to complete the project. The State will support the remaining 60% of the cost. The Broadband Committee has been working for over four years on their project and they are very close to making a recommendation to the Town.

Items having higher increases than normal are the dispatch service and transfer station disposal fees. We also gave increased wages to all employees.

As far as the roads, we are taking a different approach. Instead of doing a construction project this year, we will hire a civil engineer to review as many tar and dirt roads as we can and prepare a bid package. The Town can go out for a 20-year bond and get a many roads as possible at one time. This worked out well for Belgrade and Readfield when they did this.

We have two ordinances to vote on at the Town Meeting. One is the Fireworks Ordinance and the other is a Solar Ordinance. Copies of both ordinances are available at the Town Office.

Sincerely,

Robert Grenier



Spring Update from your Broadband Committee—MAY 2022

Our thanks to members of the community who actively supported the work of the committee this past month. We have been shifting from a 'study' focus to completion a digital inclusion plan and preparing for town decisions likely made early this summer.

This past month, the Mount Vernon Broadband website has been launched and had 92 visitors in the first month. We've enrolled over 300 Mount Vernon members on our email list who have begun to receive information about the decisions soon to be before the town for consideration. The two real time town meetings hosted by the community were attended by over 60 individuals, some online and some joining us in the Community Center. Given that Mount Vernon has a population of about 1600 residents, we've not yet heard from a majority of the town.

We know that town members are facing many big challenges and have little time for thinking about broadband. Better than most, committee members know that developing better town broadband services is not as simple as trusting remote corporations and subscribing to multiple online services. The work is complicated and we're thankful that the town's citizens have, in April made time and shared good questions to support this work.

We are now organizing and will host another one or two town meetings prior to the June Town Meeting. What can we do to help you and the town prepare to make the decisions that lay ahead? These decisions will involve choosing the best town infrastructure (information highway), the best service provider and the best ways to use customized home devices, user mini-grants and skill development opportunities. These decision will impact the town and your home for the next ten years (without exaggeration).

How much bandwidth do we need?

Bandwidth is a measure of how much and how fast information flows over the internet to and from you and your devices. It's measured as "megabits per second" and is provided by internet service providers (ISPs). "Download speed" is how fast information (text, videos, voice, images, etc) flows to you. "Upload speed" is how fast information goes from your computer up to the internet (e.g., sending an e-mail, paying a bill, "uploading" a photo, etc.). Previously we asked you to [test your present bandwidth](#) as a way of helping with the town's grant development work and the state's understanding of how well/poorly served the town is at present.

Now, you can click on this [link](#) to estimate how much total bandwidth you need today and to think about how much you might need in the future. To prepare for estimating your needs, you'll need to start by estimating many devices (computers, smart phones, tablets, smart TVs, internet-based alarm systems, etc.) are in your house; 2) How often to you video conference (i.e., use Zoom, Facetime, etc)?; 3) How often does someone in your house play online games?; and, 4) What is more important to you? a) monthly subscription price or b) internet down- and upload speed?

After you enter your data and zip code, you may see an advertisement from an ISP currently used by more than half the town. If service is unavailable today at your address, we expect affordable plans, being studied by your Broadband Committee, will be available and capable of meeting your needs in the future. If you discover that there is no plan currently available for your home that meets your needs, the Committee's intention is to close that gap!

If you have questions or opinions about this or other matters related to broadband in Mt. Vernon, please visit our website at [Mt Vernon Broadband](#) or just send an email to us at: mtvbrdbnd@gmail.com. We will answer each and every inquiry from members of the town.

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.

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 04-11-2022

Bi-Weekly Warrant Signed

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

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

Guests: Greg Cauldwell (Planning Board Chair), June Cauldwell (Community Center Chair)

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

Meeting Called to Order

- SB Meeting was Called to Order by SB Crockett at 7:05 PM

Review and Accept Meeting Minutes of 03-28-2022

- SB Crockett motioned to accept Meeting Minutes of 03-28-2022, 2nd by SB Grenier. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Review website information (3 new vendors)

1. Revize – Waldoboro
2. Civic Plus – Belgrade, Readfield
3. A-Z Computing – Madison

The Select Board is focusing on the first two, higher quality but similar websites.

SB Grenier to set up demo for Alice Counts and SB Grenier with the top two vendors

Status Of Various Internal Policies And Update

- SB Crockett tabled until next meeting.

Review Budget Status

- Death in the Fire/Rescue Department
- Repairs Needed for Dunns Corner Road
- Repairs Needed for Sadie Dunn Road
- Looking into a Bond For All Town Roads
- Specialized Engineering to assess condition of each road in town and develop RFP.
- Select Board has met with the Budget Committee for several weeks now.
- Broadband

Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 04-11-22 (Cont.)

- Community Center – June Cauldwell presented an estimate from the Masonry School. They will Plug all the holes and put a vapor barrier down. Sweep it onto the lawn as a filter for the ground water. Fix the foundation to stabilize and raise the floor. The Community Center wants to put in a cement floor which they would like help from the town to accomplish so they can get a \$1200 discount by doing all the work at one time rather than having the Masonry School come out a second time. Estimate of 5 days to complete. Concrete footing will stabilize the foundation. The CC Committee voted to accept this option. CC has \$39K in funds, but this also includes operation costs of \$6800. Additional anticipated operating cost of approx. 2K. Changed over to on demand water heater. Old furnace and pump will remain. Also plan to put insulation under the floor.
- Need to apply for permit from DEP. SB Crockett motioned to approve Maine School of Masonry with option 1, 2 and 3B for a cost of \$14,404. 2nd by SB Grenier. Motion carried. Vote was 3-0.
PASS
- Greg Cauldwell, Planning Board Chair discussed whether we need to send Abutter notices for informational meetings. Select Board decided this was not necessary and to continue with Abutter Notices for those projects going to Public Hearings only.

Start Planning Town Report

- Need Reports by the end of April from all Committees and Boards
- Need to decide on who will be on the cover of our 2021 Town Report
- Axium Broadband Fiber in Readfield, Fayette and Vienna. Vienna approved the concept but waiting for town voting. Mount Vernon Select Board is looking into this provider as well. We need to commit to a provider before we can look for grants to help with the expenditure. Equity helps people to get internet established.

Email System Update

- Licensing in place. Converting to Microsoft. SB Crockett will pull everyone's email and load into the new platform so it will flow easily. SB Crockett to look into exporting contacts into the new platform.
- Microsoft Authenticator APP – suggested by SB Crockett
- After all town accounts are activated, we will be able to put files into a Share Point setup.

Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 04-11-22 (Cont.)

Updates on TRIO, Audit, Etc.

- TRIO Go Live happened today.
- Server is in very bad condition. If we sign the new web hosting contract, Trio can have it going in 5 days and pay for it in July. Contract would be back dated to today. SB Grenier motioned to sign the Harris contract for hosting service, \$3000 for hosting and \$500 for installation. We have 34K in the discretionary fund.
- Motion by SB Crockett to sign the TRIO contract for the Web Version, Motion Carried. Vote was 3-0. **PASS**
- SB Grenier will speak with TRIO to see if we can be billed for this new contract in our next budget year. If not, will consider taking this out of the discretionary fund.

Other Business

IT Manager

- Nate Savage contract is ending and he is not interested in renewing. Scott Herrick submitted a proposal for \$6000 to cover the Town Hall, Library and Fire Department. Rate is \$85/hour. Covers 70 hours.
- SB Grenier motioned that we sign and accept Technology Service Contract from the Horn Beam Mountain Farm AKA Scott Herrick for Technology at \$6K a year. 2nd by SB Crockett. Motioned Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**
- Horn Beam Mountain Farm Contract is Effective 7-1-2022 Alice Counts to hold for Scott Herrick's signature
- What are they doing for the Ordinance Review meeting? Public, Zoom or both. Nate needs to note that this is a Public Hearing on April 21, 2022.
- Round Stone Trailer park new owners. Select Board asked if there were any evictions going on. An investment company bought the park. Price was increased \$100/month which is outpricing some residents. Aging in place looking at lower income housing for seniors.
- Mother-in-law dwellings, accessory dwellings require 200 ft of frontage which removes this as a viable option.

Adjourn

- SB Libby motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:32, 2nd by SB Grenier, Motion Carried. Vote was 3-0. **PASS.**

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87651811569?pwd=b3RjcWt6RGc5SWdvdjDFYmVmd0h3UT09>

Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 04-25-2022

Bi-Weekly Warrant Signed

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

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

Guests: Barry Skilling, Doug Stevens, Andy Dube, Charles Baeder

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

Meeting Called to Order

- SB Meeting was Called to Order by SB Crockett at 7:02 PM

Review and Accept Meeting Minutes of 04-11-2022

- SB Libby motioned to accept the Amended Meeting Minutes of 04-11-2022, 2nd by SB Crockett. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Review New Maps

- Andy Dube to redo the maps to include the omitted markups.

Discuss Long Pond Watershed Management Plan for 7 Lake Alliance

- Charlie Baeder – Writing a grant due May 20th to fix the roads, driveways, erosion issues around Long Pond. Looking at Cottle Hill, South Taylor ditching. Can put grant money into culverts, ditching to protect runoff into Long Pond. Can contribute about 50%. Looking for Rome and Belgrade to contribute with this effort. Should sign a contract by the end of the year and go into effect in 2023. Would like to start projects in spring 2023, contingent on Town Meeting. SB Crockett willing to sign a letter of support now but wait until Town Meeting of 2023 to formalize.
- Cottle Hill almost has no ditch, which needs repairs.
- Select Board will get back to Charlie Baeder with a letter of support.
- Belgrade Meeting to include Lakes Committee, Planning Board, Comprehensive Plan Review Committee. It is a Public Meeting to talk about management plans. Are Ordinances sufficient to protect the lake quality, bring up to code. How can we take care of the lakes so that they are in good shape in the next 100 years. Try to engage other towns. Invasive Plants are a huge concern and are constantly being monitored.
- Watershed includes portions of land in Smithfield, Mercer, Rome, Belgrade, Mount Vernon, Vienna, and New Sharon.

Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 04-25-2022 (Cont.)

- Public Meeting to discuss herbicides planned to be used by DEP in order to keep the invasive plants in check.
- Messalonskee Watershed – Separate grant. Jenn helped write the grant. Collaborating with Long Pond Watershed.

Review website information (3 new vendors)

- Revize – Waldoboro
 - SB Crockett Motioned that we go with Revize. Alice Counts will try to negotiate to \$3600 and to be billed after 7-1-2022. 2nd by SB Grenier at 7:35. Motion Carried. Vote was 3-0. **PASS**
- Civic Plus – Belgrade, Readfield
- A-Z Computing – Madison

Cyber Insurance and Acceptable Use Policy (AEP)

- Confidential Information and Personal Identifiable Information. HIPA to protect our Health Information.
- Clear to not use anything for political purposes, keep everything apolitical.
- Corporations always make it clear that all information on the computer is company information and belongs to the town. All AEPs try to say that everything is town information. Data Loss Prevention which watches for inappropriate content and information company assets, computers, data, etc to ensure company property doesn't leave the town premises. The Town is not actively looking to discover if an employee is doing something illegal, however we do want to know if there are violations. If there is suspicion of illegal activity, the Town does have the ability to see what IP address is responsible and if there are outside inquiries, the Town will need to respond to inquiries regarding illegal access. Violations may include up to and including termination. We are not the police and we aren't able to fire elected personnel. This all needs to be covered in an AEP.
- SB Libby motioned to approve Acceptable Use of Electronics as adapted by SB Crockett. 2nd by SB Grenier, Motion Carried. Vote was 3-0. **PASS**
- Need to have all employees sign off on policies.

Status Of Various Internal Policies And Update

- SB Crockett tabled until next meeting.
- Kerry Casey was looking at personnel policies, vacation time, Full-time, Part-Time, Regular Part-Time
- These apply specifically to policies under the Select Board prevue.

Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes 04-25-2022 (Cont.)

Town Meeting Warrant

- Warrant and Notice of Election Calling RSU 38 Budget Validation Referendum
- Renaming of Lancaster Lane
- Intention to have an informational sheet with hourly rates for a specific position so that it is a basis for any given position, but it will not be part of the warrant. We are not specifically voting on the number of hours. We are not going to see the hours. There will be a printout of last year vs this year so there is transparency, however we will be voting on the yearly wage.
- Alice Counts to send spreadsheet for warrant articles to the Select Board for their information
- ARPA money – start thinking about how we are going to designate these. Bridge should be a separate article.
- Life Flight – need to determine which census are they using to base their figures on.
- Chuck Wright wants to know if the Broadband is going on the ballot or at the Town Warrant?
- SB Crockett stated this would be on the Town Warrant at the Town Meeting.
- Fiber optics have a good lifespan. Broadband has a lot of information on their website that is linked to the town website.
- Fayette, Readfield going with Axiom.
- Vienna hasn't had their Special Town Meeting on Broadband yet.
- Kennebec County Tax 10%.
- Town Valuation: Is this correct? 284 Million? Was 243 Million previously.
- Is the Solar Ordinance going on the ballot or the Town Warrant?
- Solar Farms ordinance to be voted on at Town Meeting.
- Kerry has 2 calls in for insurance
- Waste Management – wants a 2% increase over 3.5% contract price increase. Need to get into the budget. The new price this year is 232.88, Disposal rate goes up each year. Assume this 5.5% goes across both of these.

Start Planning Town Report

- Need Reports by the end of April from all Committees and Boards. Alice Counts sent our reminders
- Need to decide on who will be on the cover of our 2021 Town Report when SB Crockett and Alice Counts work together on the warrant articles.
- Winter Road Closure will open on 5-15-2023
- Weight Limit Road Closure will open on 6-1-2023
- Delineators – vote next meeting. Nate to post.

Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 04-25-22 (Cont.)

Email System Update

- Email update went pretty well.
- Alice's Groups no longer display. How do we update those groups. PB Crockett will take a look.

Other Business

Solar Panels

- Barry Skilling took petition, door-to-door, for a moratorium on Commercial Solar Farms. People didn't know that they could watch the meetings on zoom.

Fire Department

- Barry Skillings asked "What's going on with the Fire Department?". We need to get over these mandates. The Town is important. Do away with the mandates, so our volunteer firefighters will rejoin the Fire Department. Our insurance rates will go up because we don't have adequate personnel to fight fires and provide emergency services. Our insurance rates are based on how fast our Fire Department can respond. We need to protect our Citizens. Who is going to care if a firefighter had the vaccination if your house is on fire and burning down. Residents want to know.

Select Board Meeting Notification

- Barry Skillings also mentioned that the Select Board Meeting Agendas are not being posted. A lot of people want to get involved. They need to see what the Select Board is going to discuss at each meeting.
- SB Crockett – all information will be in the Town Report one month prior to the Town Meeting.
- Doug Stevens – said he agrees with Barry.

Roads

- Which unpaved roads do we want to improve? Bob spoke to Eric, the town manager in Readfield where they took out a 15-year bond to repair ALL their roads.
- Lee peeled off 50k of his budget to hire an engineer to assess all our roads. Need to have a capital improvement plan.
- Roads of major concern: Ithiel Gordon, Cottle Hill, Moaar Hill, Desert Pond.
- 20k for Fire Department apron.
- Echo Lake Road – fine for plowing
- CMP Pole Installation for Echo Pond Road –
 - SB Crockett motioned to sign the CMP Pole Installation, 2nd by SB Libby. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 04-25-22 (Cont.)

School Board

- Motion by SB Crockett to sign RSU 38 Warrant to Call Budget Meeting, 2nd by Grenier. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

ARPA

- Grenier has a call into ARPA for a username and password

Iron Mountain Shredding

- Alice Counts has contacted Iron Mountain and is waiting to hear back as to when they will be out to pick up the Town's Out-dated records for shredding at their facility.

IT Manager

- Horn Beam Mountain Farm Contract is Effective 7-1-2022. Alice Counts called Scott Herrick to remind him we need his signature
- Aging in place looking at lower income housing for seniors. Who will be replacing Tom as Chair to head up this group?

Adjourn

- SB Libby motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:05, 2nd by SB Grenier, Motion Carried. Vote was 3-0. **PASS.**

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87651811569?pwd=b3RjcWt6RGc5SWdvdjDFYmVmd0h3UT09>

Aging In Place



During the current fiscal year (ending June 30, 2022) the Town of Mount Vernon's Aging in Place Committee had several significant achievements:

- Continued "Car Ears" phone calling by 12 volunteers as well as in person (pandemic permitting) on 75 individuals on our list of senior citizens to help them live safely and stay healthy in their homes.
- Contracted with a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) to assist in certain cases involving senior citizens which required specialized follow-up.
- Implementation of the second-ever "February FroliX" month of special events to address social isolation, AKA "cabin fever", including distribution of 50 bags of puzzles, games, cookies and cocoa to 50 households.
- Manufacture of a bulletin board to be placed in Dunn's Corner neighbor to publicize community events and Town notices (to be put up in late spring).
- Planning for an Adult Day Program to start this summer at the Mount Vernon Community Center to allow seniors to get out of the house, enjoy a meal with others, and have some fun as well as provide care-givers respite.
- Success since this past July 1st in obtaining grants totally nearly \$60,000 from:
 - The Maine Health Access Foundation, \$50,000.
 - The Harold Dudley Charitable Fund, \$6,250.
 - The Home Care for Maine Fund, \$1,500.
 - The University of Maine Center on Aging, \$1,000.
- This builds on success the prior year in winning grants from AARP Maine and the Maine Community Foundation. For the past 2 years, no tax-payer money has been required.

I want to thank the other 13 members of the committee who worked so hard this past year to help Mount Vernon's seniors age in place: Alice and Jon Olson, Carol Fuller, Dr. Dan Onion, Donna Williams, Jane Rogers, Jo Tibby, Karla Arceneaux, Kerry Casey, LCSW Laurie Rodrigues, Mary Anne Libby, Pat Rawson, and Sandy Wright.

Thomas C. Ward, Chair

Mount Vernon Community Center

Thought You Should Know.....From the Community Center

Due to the lower incidence of Covid-19, please check the billboard for updates as to whether the café at the CC is open on any particular Saturday from 9-11.

Masking is optional but recommended. 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.

Meet the Candidates Night—Tentatively set for Sunday May 29th from 2-4pm.

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.

See you on Election Day, June 14th

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

“My two favorite things in life are libraries and bicycles. The perfect day: riding a bike to the library.”

Peter Golkin

We do still encourage library visitors to wear a mask while in the building. We serve people with various chronic health challenges, and we like to protect all of our patrons as much as possible. We have some masks available if you forget your own.

Many thanks to the Bicycle Coalition of Maine for bringing their expertise and support to local cyclists here and at Readfield. Last year, they did a repair workshop, and this year, it was all about doing a spring tune-up. We hope to see them again next year!

The **Career Center of Maine** counselor, Marc Libby, will continue at our library on **Wednesdays** – but the hours have changed, as of April 27. Now he will be with us from **3-5 in the afternoon**. That might help young folks who are just getting out of school, and are looking for a bit of help with negotiating the initial steps of finding employment. You can make an appointment to come talk with Marc by calling his number: 1-207-707-0228, or you can simply stop by and talk with him. Come for a visit, and learn how to start a career or change to a new career.

Alice has put together some new **Take & Make kits for May**, and we'll have them at the library. If you want one for your child, please let us know, or come in and grab one. The theme for this month is butterflies!

Summer Reading Program: This year, the theme for libraries is “Oceans of Possibilities”. Alice has been planning our summer story times and activities, and it looks like we might get a visit or two from Tara Marble (who did the rocket program with us a couple of years ago, out on Leighton's field). We'll get information about the programs into the next newsletter, and onto our Facebook page and our website <https://drshawlibrary.org> as the summer draws near.

We hope to come back to our annual (well, not the past couple of years) Community Poetry Reading and the Stories From the Metroplex events this summer. We'll work on possible dates, and let you know what develops.

Websites for young families:

We always like to remind folks of various PBS online resources. They have games & videos for homeschoolers, parents, & teachers on their site at <https://pbskids.org>. And, there are all kinds of videos & lessons about social studies, language arts, science & math, the arts, and even world languages & engineering at <https://mainepublic.pbslearningmedia.org>. You can browse by subject or by grade level.

Spring & summer are the seasons when we most often see rainbows at the end of a storm. If you or the children you know are curious about rainbows, here are a couple of websites to visit:

Easy Geography For Kids: www.easygeographyforkids.com/rainbows/

Science Kids: <https://sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/weather/rainbows.html>

I am just starting Kirstin Harmel's [The Book of Lost Names](#) – more historical fiction centered around WW2. What are you reading as you plant the garden, spend time hiking, or maybe resting by a lake?

CODE OFFICE REPORT APRIL 2022

PERMITS.

Building Permits issued: 8 (2 single family dwelling)
Internal Plumbing Permits issued: 0
Septic System Permits issued: 1
Floodplain Permits issued: 0
Shoreland Zoning Use Permits : 5
Certificate of Compliance Permits: 0
Total Permits Issued: 14
Site Inspections: 15

INSPECTIONS/PROJECT UPDATES

Plumbing Training. I attended MBOIA sponsored plumbing training in Topsham on April 20th. It was necessary training as the internal plumbing code has been revised. Most notable to me was the allowance of AAV (mechanical vent) in lieu of a vent connected to the main stack. The State is also requiring closer attention to who is allowed to obtain a permit due to lax standards in earlier code versions.

Brook Trout Lane. A portion of Brook Trout Lane was improperly ditched which could allow sediments to travel down side ditches towards Desert Pond. I have spoken to both the person who did the ditching and the owner of the property abutting the ditching informing both that they are liable for any significant impacts to the pond and have requested both get together and repair the ditching area. If neither do anything then I will have to begin enforcement against both parties.

365 Pond Road. The single structure (formerly an antique shop) is located on a very small grandfathered lot in the Village District and Stream Protection District. The current owner wishes to turn the structure into a seasonal dwelling. There are questions still remaining on the validity of the existing holding tank and whether the dwelling can be converted to a residence. Discussions are continuing.

Respectfully Submitted

William W. Butler

INLAND FISH AND WILDLIFE

Inland Fisheries & Wildlife has raised the cost of the ATV's & UTV's this year.

****Maine resident's will now be charged \$70.00 for the year**

****Non-resident's will now be charged \$115.00 for the year and**

****\$100.00 for the temporary registration. We were told that the extra \$25.00 will go directly towards the trails.**

ELECTION INFORMATION

The elections will be held on June 14th at the Community Center from 8am to 8pm.

The Town meeting will be held on June 18th at the Mount Vernon Elementary School starting at 9am.

****If you are not a registered voter and would like to vote you can come to the town office during our business hours OR you can come down election day and register! You will need 2 forms of ID to register to vote. Hope to see everyone there!**

NEWSLETTER CORRECTION

There was some misinformation in a previous newsletter from the selectboard. Yes, we have a new software program, but I am not able to do this from my home like you were told. Any questions regarding this, please feel free to reach out to me via email. clerk@mtvernonme.org

Keep smiling, Heather & Rachel