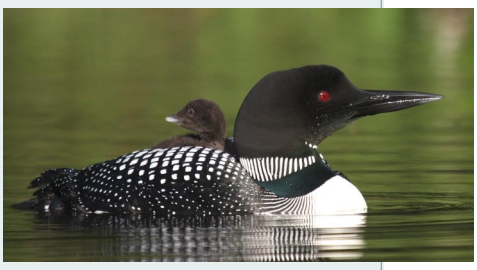
Selectman's Corner



The budget season is here, and the budget committee will be receiving figures from each department over the next few weeks. Within a month we should be able to give you a better idea of how next year's town meeting will look like.

I have some ideas I would like to put out there;

1. The town badly needs to do a revaluation. The last one was done in 2008. The state would like them done every 10 years or when we off by 30% which we are in both cases. The cost is estimated to be around $125,000. Those of you that are getting homestead exemptions are only getting about 70% of what you would get if we were valued at or near 100%. This alone would recover a good amount of this $125,000. And some would come from missing taxable property over these last 16 years. This would also catch up with the changes in real estate price increases over this period.
2. The Blake Hill Bridge has come up again. The state sent us an email which said the bridge would cost $2.5 million and the town share would be $1 million or 40%. I answered that we had an engineered bridge that would have cost $600,000 two years ago. Our share would have been $200,000. I think it is time to act and raise 40% now and go ahead with the project. The state has already delayed the project 2 years and put it out of our price range. We have no guarantee that the bridge will remain closed this spring when they inspect it again.
3. A Public hearing to talk about going on a 5-person Selectboard and changing to a town manager form of government.
4. We will also be talking about Harbor Master Ordinance.
5. Solar and other topics may come up.

Please join us at 11:00 Saturday at the Community Center on March 1.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library.... 2
Community Events 3
Food Bank 4
Minutes 6

MEMBERS NEEDED!!

INVESTMENT COMMIITEE

HELP THE TOWN INVEST OUR MONIES TO HAVE THE BEST RETURN OF INVESTMENT.

CONTACT:

BOB@MTVERNONME.ORG

CARL@MTVERNONME.ORG

DAN@MTVERNONME.ORG



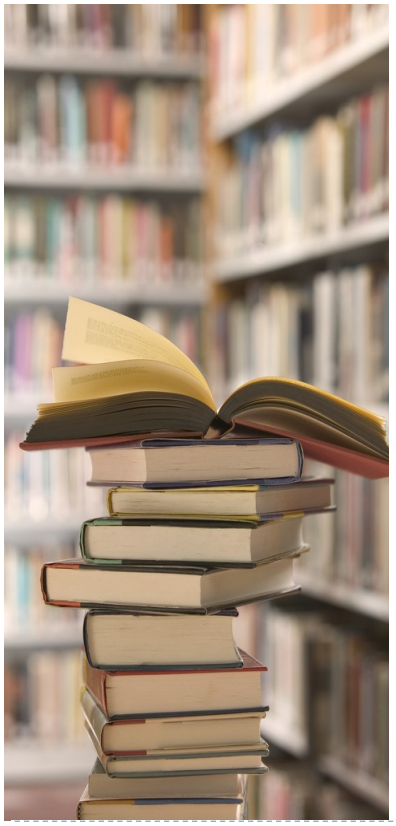
TOWN HALL ENTRANCE

The entrance to the Town Hall now has Handicap Accessible doors!
Door buttons are located outside on the ramp and inside the porch.
Doors are much heavier...so use the buttons if you need them!

DR. SHAW MEMORIAL LIBRARY



Monday
3-6 pm
Wednesday
9 –Noon & 3-7 pm
Saturday
10-3pm



"Libraries (are) full of ideas – perhaps he most dangerous and powerful of all weapons." Sarah J. Maas

We'd like to hear from you if you have any ideas for possible programming (author talks, particular topics, activities, or discussions), Let us know of your interests, and we will see what we might be able to pull together.

Our usual services and activities:

*Wednesday mornings 9-Noon: Drop-in Tech Help with Remi. Bring your device and ask any questions you have related to learning about online resources and programs.

*Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month, from 1-3PM, the local Yarn Group has a Crafternoon. Come join this friendly group, bring a craft project of your own, and maybe learn some new skills.

*Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month, from 3-5PM, adults from around the community get together to play board games together, visit, and enjoy companionship.

Folks have started reading for their 2025 Book Bingo! We've got some stacks of sample books that would work for some of the bingo squares. This is a nice reading activity that doesn't require meetings, and you can accomplish it at your own pace. The bingo will end in December, so you've got time to finish your reading grid!

We do have an electronic piano keyboard upstairs, with a bit of music to play, and there are headphones so you can just listen privately to the music you play. Or you could try playing a brief bit of music without the headphones, as long as there are no meetings or other activities going on. Try it out, if you wish! Music helps!

Our collection of board games and puzzles (some aimed at young patrons, others for adults) has become popular over time. We have games like UNO, Candy Land, Bingo, Chutes & Ladders, and more. There are some children's 25 piece floor puzzles, and jigsaw puzzles for all ages with anywhere from 100 – 1,000 pieces to keep you entertained on bad weather days! We also have baking ware, if you want to try using some new or different baking pans for creating some fun desserts.

Many thanks to our local volunteer tax guru, David, for setting up our annual Tax Help days. The available slots filled up quickly. People are so appreciative of this service!

We know the Cloud Library can sometimes be difficult to access, when you are trying to download books online. Here are a few more free online resources for downloading books: Librivox https://librivox.org Open Library https://openlibrary.org Project Gutenberg https://www.gutenberg.org Many Books https://manybooks.net

I have just started reading The Lion Women of Tehran by Marjan Kamali. We also have her novel, The Stationery Shop, which was a good read. What are you reading or listening to or watching during late winter?

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library 293-2565 librarian@drshawlibrary.org drshawlibrary.org

2025 Maranacook Adult Ed
Class Highlights for the New Year!

Mar 27 5:30 pm-8:30 pm **Basic Beginner Welding**
Have you ever thought about fabricating with metals? May be as a craft/hobby, or the start of a new business venture down the road? If you answered yes, then our new Basic Beginner Welding class is the right fit for you.
8 Thursdays, MCHS $299.

207-685-4923 x1
Maranacook Adult Education
https://marancook.coursestorm.com

The Community Café

Mt. Vernon Community Center
2 Main Street, Mt. Vernon, ME

Saturday, March 1st, 9-11am

Donations to help maintain and operate the Community Center are welcome!

Pie Auction

Saturday March 15th, 9-11am
Bidding runs from 9am to 10:30am

Breakfast pizza and quiches will be provided during the auction.

Hosting an International Dinner

Saturday, April 12th, 5-7pm

Click on the link below to access the events calendar!

The Town Of Mount Vernon

TOWN OFFICE STAFF
Town Office
Phone: 207-293-2379
Fax: 207-293-3507
clerk@mtvernonme.org

Mon 9am-5pm
Tue, Wed, & Thu 7am-3pm
Fri, Sat & Sun - Closed

Town Clerk & Tax Collector
Heather Wheeler
207-293-2379
clerk@mtvernonme.org

Deputy Clerk
Kelly Hutchins
207-293-2379
deputyclerk@mtvernonme.org

Treasurer
Kerry Casey
207-293-1103
treasurer@mtvernonme.org
Mon, Wed 10-12

Select Board
selectboard@mtvernonme.org

Robert Grenier
207-293-2783
bob@mtvernonme.org

Carl Rogers
774-654-0008
carl@mtvernonme.org

Daniel Shea
207-620-2326
Dan@mtvernonme.org

Select Board Admin. Assistant
Tina Cagle
207-707-2614
tina@mtvernonme.org
newsletter@mtvernonme.org

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

MOUNT VERNON FOOD BANK

Winter News From The Food Pantry

Happy winter, that is if you like snow. We will try to be open every Saturday but please call ahead (293-2141) if the roads are bad or it's extremely cold. As you know, most of the volunteers are older and most live a distance from the pantry and may not be able to get in.

Please note that the first and third Saturdays we will provide full service including meat boxes, meal kits, shelf items and personal care items; other weeks are for fresh fruits, vegetables, breads and bakery items. If you are unable to get in on the first or third Saturday due to work or other obligations, please let us know so we can plan to serve you on the alternate weeks.

If you have special dietary needs, let a volunteer know; give us some suggestions of items that we can source for you. We want to provide you with healthy foods that you can and will eat.

You may have heard that some people who have been receiving SNAP benefits since COVID may no longer be eligible. These people 18 to 55 years old who don't have any minor children must work, volunteer or participate in job training for an average of 80 hours per month in order to remain eligible for benefits.

However, there are a number of exemptions to the "work requirement" including; the person is a veteran, a student or caring for someone who can't care for him/herself but is not a dependent. For further information on all the exemptions, visit maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/programs-services/food-supplement





Select Board Meetings are live streamed here:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3UCAtx3K5rgMCNAc-BCqnLQ/live

Zoom Link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86936993828?pwd=4d1jlZ2csB3aUyIJgCkjut9N3sdKkN.1

Meeting ID: 869 3699 3828
Passcode: SBMTG

Planning Board Meetings

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82859954335?pwd=z8cW3c6mu8JpMUB6qrnSNfSUZWpxRP.1



MUFFIN MORNING MEETINGS

1st Monday of the Month
Coffee * Conversation * Speakers
New Friends & Neighbors
All are welcome!

Sponsored by the Age-Friendly Towns of Fayette, Mt. Vernon & Vienna
FMI: Aging in Place Outreach Coordinator: outreach.aip@yahoo.com

Are you a resident of...
Belgrade, Fayette, Mount Vernon, Readfield, Rome and Vienna?

Do you need a ride?

NDN provide free and confidential rides within our service area (listed above) for adults who are not able to drive. We can take you to:

- Run errands
- Exercise sessions
- Classes
- Medical appointments
- Shopping
- Socializing
- Volunteering
- Other appointments

Call, email or visit our website for details about volunteering to drive or if you need a ride.

Neighbors Driving Neighbors
PO Box 142
Mount Vernon, ME 04352
phone: 207-860-0677
email: neighborsdrivingneighbors@gmail.com
web: neighborsdrivingneighbors.org

Leadership News from Neighbors Driving Neighbors

MT. VERNON — At the organization's annual meeting in January, Neighbors Driving Neighbors (NDN) was proud to announce that board member Shelly Fitzgerald is its new President.

Fitzgerald, a retired Family Nurse Practitioner, and one of the founding members of NDN, comes with many years of volunteer leadership and community involvement. A longtime resident of Rome, she is on the Maine Wesleyan Board of Education and volunteers for the Union Church of Belgrade Lakes.

Former president, Harald Bredesen, whose tenure was January, 2022 to January, 2025, will continue to represent the nonprofit as Director at Large.

Additionally, NDN welcomed two new board members—Kelli Burnham of Fayette and Sandy Shute of Rome. The board of 10 plus two staff continue to invest their time and talent in keeping the nonprofit healthy and growing.

Executive Director Joe Austin shared, "It is very exciting to have Shelly accept this leadership role. She brings experience from being with NDN since the beginning, not only as a founder, but also as a prolific volunteer driver. NDN is celebrating its 10th year in operation, and as we reflect on our past and transition to the future, Shelly brings a critical perspective and vision. In 2024, NDN provided 1,513 rides—more than in any previous year. With Shelly's leadership and the energy she and new board members are bringing, Neighbors Driving Neighbors will continue to thrive, providing more rides to more people in 2025 and beyond."

Neighbors Driving Neighbors volunteers provide free transportation for adults (in Belgrade, Fayette, Mt. Vernon, Readfield, Rome and Vienna) for medical appointments, errands, exercise sessions, classes, shopping, socialization and volunteering.

Anyone needing assistance or wishing to become a volunteer driver should contact NDN at neighborsdrivingneighbors@gmail.com or call 207-860-0677 for more information. Also, please check our website (www.neighborsdrivingneighbors.org) for upcoming driver orientation sessions, content and more.

Media Contact:
Joe Austin
Executive Director
Neighbors Driving Neighbors
(207) 860-0677 jaustin.ndn@gmail.com

Select Board Meetings are live streamed here:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3UCAtx3K5rgMCNAc-BCqnLQ/live

Zoom Link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86936993828?pwd=4d1jlZ2csB3aUyIJgCkjut9N3sdKkN.1

Meeting ID: 869 3699 3828
Passcode: SBMTG

Planning Board Meetings

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82859954335?pwd=z8cW3c6mu8JpMUB6qrnSNfSUZWpxRP.1

TOWN STAFF

Animal Control Officer
Eric Johnson
207-931-7684
dogs, cats, and other domesticated animals only.

Cemetery Sexton
Bob Grenier
207-293-2783
bob@mtvernonme.org

Code Enforcement Officer and Plumbing Inspector
Dan Doray
Work: 207-293-2636
Cell: 207-250-3395
CEO@mtvernonme.org
Tuesdays 8am-4pm

Fire Chief
Jason Beckler @ 207-293-2114
(non-emergencies)

General Assistance
Carl Rogers @ 774-654-0008
carl@mtvernonme.org

Health Officer
Rachel Criswell, MD

Rescue Director
Amanda Mills @ 207-293-2597
(non-emergencies)

Road Commissioner
Lee Dunn @ 207-242-5828

Tax Assessor
Roger Peppard @ 207-293-1105
3rd Thursday of each month
Call Town Office for Appointment assessor@mtvernonme.org

Transfer Station
Megan Goucher @ 207-213-3523
Sat & Sun 8:30 am – Noon
June thru September 30th open on Wednesdays from 3 -6pm

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Town of Mount Vernon
Select Board Minutes
01/27/2025

Members Present: Bob Grenier, Dan Shea. Carl Rogers
Members Absent:
Member of the Public: Kerry Casey – Treasurer, Remington French – Deputy Treasurer, Tina Cagle – Administrative Assistant, Cathy Jacobs, Tom Jacobs, Ona Fast, Noah Easter

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 pm 01/27/2025.

Motion by Selectman Grenier to approve the meeting minutes of 01/13/2025.
Seconded by Selectman Shea. Motion passes: 3-0.

Law Firm
Will set up a meeting to speak with Patrick Lyons from Viridian regarding change of law firms.

Town Manager Form of Government
The committee recommend a five (5) person Selectboard as well as forming a Town Manager Form of Government.

Town website has more information: documents – Governance Committee – Town Manager recommendations.

Snowmobile Club
The club is requesting a place to place their Connex box with the club's equipment on the town's property.

Insurance is needed with Mount Vernon as a recipient.

Internships Meeting
MMA has a set up for internships with the colleges in the state.

The cost is $17/hour, for 12 weeks. $8000 plus $300 admin fee.

Generator Possible Grant
KVCOG will assist with writing the grant for a generator at the school for a warming center, etc.

Assessor
The assessor will be present at the next meeting.

Other Business

- Representative Sharon Frost gave an update on the goings at the state house.
- Invasive species invading Maine due to climate change.
- Working on changing the load limits for roads to allow "landscaping" materials in the early spring.
- Sharon.frost@legislature.me.gov
- Clean energy, clean land/water, more mental health workers etc…
- Dr. Gilman Funds
- $96,000 is the amount of the trust. Only the interest may be spent.
- Can it be used for General Assistance.
- The fire truck is 21 years old and needs to be replaced.

Motion by Selectman Shea to allow 18-year-old employees to drive town owned vehicles.
Second by Selectman Grenier. Motion passes: 3-0.
Motion by Selectman Grenier to appoint Remington French as Deputy Treasurer.
Second by Selectman Shea. Motion passes: 3-0
Motion by Selectman Grenier to appoint Lilly Bottino as substitute Director of the After Care Program at $25/hour.
Second by Selectman Rogers. Motion passes: 3-0.

The Transfer station is planning for another bulky bin.
Site-Plan review to the planning board for approval.

OSHA300 logs will be available in March.
The School budget is 6.5% at this time.
There will be a policy review meeting on 02/03/2025 at 7 pm.
There will be no change to the payroll system at this time.

Motion by Selectman Shea to adjourn at 8:29 pm
Seconded by Selectman Grenier. Motion passes: 3-0

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

STATEWIDE INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

Bureau of Motor Vehicle
207-624-9000
maine.gov/sos/online_services.gov

Property Tax Fairness Credit
207-624-9784
https://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs/income-tax-credits/property-tax-fairness-credit

State Property Tax Deferral Program
207-624-5600
prop.tax@maine.gov

Maine Inland Fisheries/Wildlife
207-287-8000
www.mefishwildlife.com

2-1-1
Sometimes you need more than an internet search.

You need a conversation.
Dial 2-1-1
visit 211maine.org
text your zip code to 898-211

Town of Mount Vernon
Select Board Minutes
02/10/2025

Members Present: Bob Grenier, Dan Shea. Carl Rogers
Members Absent:
Member of the Public: Kerry Casey – Treasurer, Remington French – Deputy Treasurer, Tina Cagle – Administrative Assistant, Tom Jacobs, Noah Easter, via Zoom – Patrick Lyons,

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 pm 02/10/2025.

Motion by Selectman Grenier to approve the meeting minutes of 01/27/2025.
Seconded by Selectman Rogers. Motion passes: 3-0.

Motion by Selectman Grenier to amend the meeting minutes from 01/13/2025 to correct; a. "Lincoln Walters" to "Lincoln Walton", b. "Megan Goucher for $130/week" to "Megan Goucher for $17.22 per hour".
Second by Selectman Rogers. Motion passes: 3-0.

Law Firm
Patrick Lyons from Viridian Law Firm, via Zoom, has broken away from Preti Flaherty and started a law firm with other attorneys.

An authorization letter to engage with Viridian Law Firm will be sent and signed.

Motion by Selectman Shea to accept Patrick Lyons and Viridian Law Firm to represent the Town of Mount Vernon.
Second by Selectman Grenier. Motion passes: 3-0.

Town Valuation
The town valuation is currently very low, therefore the assessed value of the property in Mount Vernon does not show the actual current value.

A complete and total valuation of the town would be over $125,000 to bring the property values to 100%.

There is an option of visiting all properties over a four (4) year period and once that is completed the cost would still be over $75,000 (which most is labor).

As of 2023 the valuation is 83%.

Investment RFP
An RFP (Request for Proposal) will be going out to area banks for current interest rates on all the towns' bonds/funds and accounts.

Should the town create a committee for trust management?

Brown Tail Moth Survey
It's gonna' be bad folks.
This warm weather is going to make it easier for them this year.

Other Business

- Winthrop Rescue/Ambulance/Dispatch is having to raise the rates and charges that the local towns pay.
- They don't get paid for going to a call and do not take anyone anywhere.
- They have lost approximately $100,000 due to this issue.
- Rescue/Ambulance will range from $28,000 - $53,000.
- Dispatch will range from $18,000 to $36,000.
- Special Town Meeting
- March 1st at 11 am at the Community Center.
- Community Center Basement
- Solar advanced monies

Motion by Selectman Grenier to adjourn at 8:27 pm
Seconded by Selectman Shea. Motion passes: 3-0

Low Income Spay/Neuter
800-367-1317

Ecomaine
207-773-1738
ecomaine.org/101

NextGen 529 College Investing Plan
800-228-3734
nextgenforme.com/
Myalfondgrant.org

Senior Citizen Information
211
Maine.gov: Residents: Senior Citizen Resources

Neighbors Driving Neighbors
207-860-0677
P.O. Box 142, MTV

Maranacook Superintendent
207-685-3336
www.maranacook.org

Community Resilience Partnership
207-248-8166
hbredesen@growsmartmaine.org
(Harald Bredesen)

Kennebec Behavioral Health - Clinic
207-213-2037
11 Caldwell Street, Augusta
Health - Outpatient
207-626-3455
66 Stone Street, Augusta

Minnehonk Ridge Riders Snowmobile Club
207-480-0034
rkarabin@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter

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

newsletter@mtvernonme.org

Paid Business Advertisements

à Business Card Size $15/month

1/4 page $25/month

1/2 page $45/month

Full page $90/month