

April 2025

Mt. Vernon Newsletter

Select Board
selectboard@mtvernonme.org

Daniel Shea
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Dan@mtvernonme.org

Robert Grenier
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bob@mtvernonme.org

Carl Rogers
774-654-0008
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Select Board Assistant
Tina Cagle
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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

Select Board Meetings are live streamed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3UCAtx3K5rgMCNAcBCqnLQ/live>

Zoom Link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86936993828?pwd=4d1jZ2csB3aUyJgCkjut9N3sdKkN.1>

Meeting ID: 869 3699 3828
Passcode: SBMTG



this issue

Selectboard Letter **P.1**

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Selectmans' News

Hello Residents,

It's starting to look like an early spring. I'm sure many of us are ready for warmer weather. Maple Sunday is March 23rd this year.

The big decision at our recent special town meeting was to adopt a 5-person selectboard. The 5-person selectboard will begin with the new fiscal year starting July 1 of this year. As a result, we will have 1 position from the existing selectboard, (Carl's) that will be open plus 2 new seats. One of the new seats will be for a 3 year term while the other seat will begin with a 2 year term (then transition to a 3-year term). This is being done so that there will be 2 seats renewing every 2 years and 1 seat renewing the 3rd year. The 5-person selectboard should provide a wider representation, improved decision making and allow us to get more done by working collaboratively without invoking a decision-making meeting.

Solar: During our public meeting in March, we gave an overview of the proposed solar project and answered many questions. The solar project, located at the transfer station, will provide all of the power each of the municipal buildings in town currently use. We expect solar will save the town money real money over a 20 year period. To recap, the expected total project cost will be approximately \$126,500.00. The project will only proceed if we receive a Community Resilience Partnership Community Action Grant for \$75,000. We expect to hear whether we will get the grant in the next few weeks. Based on the total project cost, we will receive ~\$35,000 as a rebate from the federal government. A number of people were concerned about the rebate being withdrawn given the new administration. To date, state resources contacted do not feel the rebate will be withdrawn as this was an act of congress.

Assuming we get the grant and the rebate, the amount the town would need to kick in will be ~\$16,000.00 which will save the town at least \$200,000 over 20 years. With our proposed project, we will own the solar array outright. The primary on-going cost will be for a maintenance agreement - if we decide to purchase one. Equipment will be warranted for 10 years. The result is that if we use \$16,000.00 of our money to purchase the array, our payback will be within 2 years. We will provide additional public hearings on this project. We will need your approval to spend about \$2,500.00 for a CMP estimate and then, assuming the CMP costs are reasonable, we will ask you to approve spending the money to complete the project as well as to use the \$35,000.00 that we expect to be rebated to the town once the project is up and running.

Our comprehensive plan was reviewed by KVCOG, an agency we are a member of, that helps ensure our plan meets the state guidelines. Unfortunately, given our comprehensive plan was written in 2019, we learned that we need to review and update a substantial part of the document. We will be discussing what our game plan will be in upcoming selectboard meetings. We achieved a number of the objectives set out in the 2019 grant. We will probably write a new plan with updated views and goals. If so, we will need additional volunteers to help construct or update the comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan is needed to qualify for a number of state grants.

Your feedback about our website would be helpful. Let us know what you like or don't like. Either send an email to: selectboard@mtvernonme.org or call Carl at 774 654-0008. We are planning to add a new "notifications" feature to the site so that you can get email and possibly text alerts about new content that is added. This will allow you to get an email notification when Selectboard meeting minutes, community center, library, fire department, newsletters or other town events are posted - delivered straight to your inbox.

For the selectboard, Carl

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

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

Hours: Monday 3-6PM, Wednesday 9-Noon & 3-7PM,
Saturday 10-3PM

"A book is proof that humans are capable of working magic." Carl Sagan

Our usual weekly & monthly activities:

*Drop-in Tech Help, weekly Wednesday mornings 9-Noon, with Remi." Bring your phone, tablet or laptop and ask for some help with navigating the internet or various programs/apps.



*Yarn Group Crafternoons", 1st & 3rd Wednesday afternoons each month, 1-3PM. Bring a yarn or craft project and visit with these knowledgeable, friendly folks.



*Game Afternoons for Adults", 2nd & 4th Wednesday afternoons each month, 3-5PM. They play all sorts of board games – bring your own or use what others bring and enjoy the laughter and chat as you play.



"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." Cicero

We will be at the Community Resource Fair, at Fayette Central School, on Saturday, April 5, from 10AM-2PM. Come learn about area resources (including libraries) for all age groups. This Fair is sponsored by the local Aging In Place committee. We are thankful for this effort to keep community members informed about resources that might help us all in our daily lives.

Upcoming library events in April:

1. Author talk by Amy Wight Chapman on Monday, April 14 at 4:30pm. Amy will tell us about her creative biography, *Just Like Glass*, about a year in her mother's, and her siblings (including Leslie Grenier!) and her own life after the death of their husband & father. Amy is a Maine author who writes both fiction and nonfiction, and writes for the local newspaper in Bethel. We have her book, which has been so well-received by our readers! Join us for a friendly talk by Amy, who has close connections with our own community!

2. Spring Is Here! Story and craft time with Allison on April 23, Wednesday morning, 10AM (during school break). This program is for kids of all ages. And, if the weather is good, there will be kite flying (bring your own kite)! Join us for some wonderful spring activities at the library, and spend some time together.

3. How is your 2025 Book Bingo going? We still have some bingo sheets if you want to start your own personal reading challenge, and we keep stacks of sample books you can read for some of the categories. Book Bingo will continue till the end of the year, and if you finish the grid, you can submit your name for the winning raffle, for a prize of a gift card from a local business.

We are looking for a volunteer who would be willing to plan & run a weekly story hour during the next school year, perhaps on a Wednesday or Saturday morning. If you are interested in helping to design this possible program, please let us know!
You can contact us via email at

librarian@drshawlibrary.org

As always, we are so grateful to our local AARP volunteer tax guru, David Fuller, for organizing the annual Tax Help days. Our community members are thankful to receive this help in filing their state & federal income taxes. It is a much needed service, and we are happy to provide space and time to make sure it can happen close to home!

'Tis the season – for gardening! We have lots of books on gardening in our nonfiction collection, in the 635-639 section. Come browse the shelves and find some inspiration & info to help get you started!

I have been reading some more Mary Oliver and Joy Harjo poetry. What are you reading as we move into Spring?



Community Center News

Huge heartfelt Thank You to all who donated and showed up for our annual Pie Day event, it was a huge success and funds will be used for repairs and renovations of the Community Center.

The Community Center continues to have our **Breakfast Cafe the first Saturday of each month from 9 - 11am**. If any group or committee is interested in hosting a breakfast as a fundraiser, either on that first Saturday or any other Saturday of the month, please reach out! Always amazing food available and it is a wonderful way to get to know others in our community. **On Saturday April 26th we will be hosting the International Dinner from 5-7pm**. We are looking for people to sign up to bring a main dish, salad, or dessert for that and will be reaching out or you can contact Nona Boyink at 293-2350 or Daphne Sanders at 293-2619 to sign up. If you would like to rent the Community Center for a private or public event, please contact Daphne Sanders.



This fire hydrant is located at the boat launch on Minnehonk Lake.

If you go ice fishing and park your vehicle here...we will not be able to use the hydrant.

We WILL TOW your vehicle if it blocks the hydrant!

News from

30 Mile River Watershed Association

We've moved!

We had a flurry of activity on our building over the past few months, and moved into our new permanent location at **6 Seavey Corner Rd, Mt. Vernon** in late January! Thanks to all of the volunteers who have helped with painting, trim work, and flooring. We look forward to welcoming the community this summer.

Enjoying the watershed in winter

Though snowfall amounts have only just increased this winter, we've had some great cold, ice-making weather, providing fun recreational opportunities like skating, ice fishing, and skate-skiing. We'd love for you to share your photos of your outdoor recreation in the watershed! Tag us on social media, or email your pictures to silas@30mileriver.org.

Save the Date: 16th Annual Paddle Trek

Mark your calendars! This year's 16th Annual Paddle Trek will be held on Saturday, July 26th. Join us for all or just a part of this 15-mile paddle from Mt. Vernon Village to Wayne Village, traveling along many of the lakes and streams that form the "30 Mile River." Not up for paddling 15 miles? No problem! Many people join for one, two or three legs of the trip. Visit our website for details about how the event works, which lakes, ponds and streams you will paddle, and more. **Registration will begin in June**. We have kayaks available to rent.

Workshops & training

Be sure to visit our [Workshops & Training webpage](#) to check out many lake-focused workshops, trainings, and webinars.

Sign up for our monthly E-newsletter at 30mileriver.org

<https://www.facebook.com/30mileriver>



Five Person Select Board

You will see three (3) positions open on the ballot in June. The town overwhelmingly voted for a five (5) person Select Board.

www.townofmountvernon.org

for more information.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MOUNT VERNON FOOD BANK

We will be giving out full pantry items on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month.

However, we will have fresh fruits, vegetables, bread, and pastry items every Saturday.

You may come in for these items every Saturday.

We also have a variety of winter clothing that customers can look through every week.

Again, we are located at the First Baptist Church in Mount Vernon at 321 Pond Road, Mount Vernon.

Our hours are Saturday from 9:30 to 11:30. You can reach us on Saturday mornings at 293-2141.

If we are experiencing snow or freezing rain, we will open the food bank if volunteers are able to get there. However, under these conditions, it is a good idea to call before heading out.

Mt Vernon Aging in Place

The mission of the Mt. Vernon Aging in Place Committee is to assist older adults in finding the supporting resources and care we need to safely and comfortably age in our homes for as long as possible.

The Mt Vernon Aging in Place Committee has been hosting Monday Muffin Mornings in the three towns of Mt Vernon, Vienna and Fayette from 9:30-11:00 am on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Mondays of the month. There is often a speaker or topic of interest, and always time to share information and socialize. Coffee and muffins are provided, thanks to the generous donations from Scapes Café in Mt Vernon and the Apple Shed in Readfield.

The schedule is as follows: 1st Monday –Mt Vernon Community Center
3rd Monday--- Starling Hall in Fayette
4th Monday—Vienna Grange
Regardless of the town you live in, these Muffin Mornings, designed for the older population, welcome people to come on any or all of the Mondays.

Christine Merchant, the Aging in Place Outreach Coordinator, and Amy Blaisdell, our resource coordinator, are ready to assist with information or resources that can help people continue to age safely and comfortably at home. Their contact information is below:
Christine Merchant—207-344-7580
Amy Blaisdell—207-485-4778



Earth Day!
April 27th

Vienna Roadside Pick-Up
FMI: John 446-2675

Save the Date!



COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

Fayette Central School

SAT | APR 5 | 10am - 2pm

Sponsored by the (Aging in Place), Age-Friendly Communities of Fayette, Mt. Vernon and Vienna

Take a break from mud season. Visit with caring neighbors.

Meet our Community Resource Navigator and learn about what we have in our area for ALL AGE GROUPS:

- Balance Testing and Workshops
- Area Handyman Services
- Girl Scouts
- Meals on Wheels
- Dr. Shaw and Underwood Libraries
- Food Pantries
- Fire Safety – Smoke Survival Training
- 30 Mile River Watershed Assn.
- Kennebec Land Trust
- Veterans Benefits & Services
- Bridges Home Care
- Maine Senior College Network
- Neighbors Driving Neighbors
- Fayette Baptist Church Shoulder to Shoulder Program
- Cohen Center
- Senior Companion Program
- Town Recreation Committees
- KVYMCA Spectrum Generations
- Caregiver Resources
- Andwell
- AARP and MORE!

Fill out your Aging in Place Needs Assessment Survey

while you visit with neighbors and enjoy refreshments. **No admission fee!**

Muffins provided by Apple Shed Bakery. Coffee, tea and lunch courtesy of Fayette Fire Dept. Auxiliary. Donations accepted.

Questions? Vendors still welcome. Email outreach.aip@yahoo.com



TOWN OF FAYETTE
2589 Main Street
Fayette, ME 04349
(207) 685-4373
fayette@myfairpoint.net

NEWS RELEASE – March 27, 2025

Aging in Place Needs Assessment Launched in Fayette, Mt. Vernon and Vienna

Survey to Land in Resident Mailboxes

Led by their respective Age Friendly Committees, the Towns of Fayette, Mt. Vernon and Vienna have joined together to conduct a formal needs assessment of residents to quantify specific challenges people may be facing to remain in their current homes as they age.

The first step in this process is asking every household in all three towns to complete a 4-page survey that will be mailed to each residence in early April. The estimated time to complete the survey is ten minutes and a postage-paid envelope will be provided to send responses to the UMaine Center on Aging, where data will be tabulated. Alternatively, residents may visit a web site to complete the survey online.

The UMaine Center on Aging is working with the three towns to conduct the assessment and will be assisting the towns in developing formal Aging in Place Action Plans by the end of the year. Following tabulation of the survey results, focus groups will be assembled to tackle issues identified in the survey to work on solutions. Community-wide events will be held during the fall to discuss proposed solutions and prioritize action plan items. Final reports will be presented to the three Boards of Selectmen for formal adoption by the end of the year.

The survey effort will officially launch on Saturday, April 5th at a Tri-Town Community Resource Fair being held at the Fayette Central School from 10AM-2PM. Attendees may complete the survey while enjoying refreshments and learning about area programs and services for all age groups. Residents will also be invited to sign up for focus group topics of interest, join age friendly notification lists, and request a confidential interview of household needs.

Residents may access the survey online as of April 1 via the following QR Code or URL: <https://bit.ly/AF-Fayette-MTV-Vienna-Survey>. Additional printed surveys may be picked up at the Fayette or Mt. Vernon town offices or at the Dr. Shaw Memorial or Underwood Memorial Libraries. Completed surveys may also be dropped off at those locations.



According to Fayette's project chair Mary Ann Hayes, "We are ready to move from vague awareness of problems to documenting exactly what is needed and crafting practical solutions. If we need additional housing options, we need to know what kind and with what surrounding services. We ask fellow residents to join our effort to enable our family members, friends and neighbors to live comfortably in our towns as long as they wish. Please take 10 minutes to complete and return the survey by May 15."

Funding for the needs assessment has been provided by the Maine Health Access Foundation, the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development and the Maine Center on Aging in partnership with AARP-Maine.

For more information, contact Mary Ann Hayes at 207.735.6260 or mahayes0322@gmail.com. ####

Calling for Select Board and School Board members.

We are soliciting candidates for:

Two (2) Select Board – Three (3) year term

One (1) Select Board - Two (2)-year term

One (1) school board member – Three (3)-year term

Each term, beginning July 1, 2025.

Required Nomination papers will be available from the Clerk's Office February 20th and must be returned by April 21st at 5:00 PM

A minimum of 25 registered Mount Vernon voters is required with a maximum of 100 signatures.

Aftercare Program Update



Mt. Vernon After School Care program is seeking volunteers to help support our students after school starting in the fall. Please contact Cathy Jacobs at 491-1305 or cathyjacobs72@gmail.com for more information and to get your name on the list! Every little bit of your time helps our students have a safe and fun place to be after school!

After School Care Donations

Monetary donations to the after school care fund can be made [here](#)

Planning Board

David Sanders – Chair
Keith Coulling – Vice Chair
Fred Webber
Chad Dwelley
Michael Smith
Ronald LaRue
Tyler Dunn

The Planning Board meets every 3rd Tuesday at the Dr. Shaw Memorial Library at 7 pm

you may email tina@mtvernonme.org if you need to reach any of the members.



Meeting Minutes

Selectboard and Planning Board

Town of Mount Vernon
Select Board Minutes
02/24/2025

Members' Present: Bob Grenier, Dan Shea, Carl Rogers

Members' Absent:

Members of the Public: Kerry Casey – Treasurer, Remington French – Deputy Treasurer, Tina Cagle – Administrative Assistant, Tom Jacobs, Noah Easter, Troy Gagnon, Jennifer Dube, Cathy Jacobs, Elaine Karabin, Roger Karabin, Jeremy Derby, Richard "RJ", Melysa Cassidy

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 pm 02/24/2025.

Motion by Selectman Grenier to approve the meeting minutes of 02/10/2025.
Seconded by Selectman Rogers. Motion passes: 3-0.

Law Firm

- An authorization letter to engage with Viridian Law Firm has been signed and sent.

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 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.
- The town will advertise for members to create a committee for trust management.

AIP Funding Request

- Aging in Place would like the town to contribute to the fund for the social worker until 12/31/2025.
- Should we help fund that position until 06/30/2026?

Waste Management & EcoMaine

- Waste Management will rise to \$112 per ton.
- EcoMaine will rise to \$116 per ton
- There is also a \$95 charge for the rental of the recycling box.
- There is also a \$190 hauling fee.
- Selectman Grenier will call them on the extra fees.

Best Practices for Snow & Ice Removal

- Pete Cogland with Maine Roads has agreed to meet with the board and the road commissioner on new innovations in road management.

Public Hearing

- A public hearing will be held on March 1st @ 11 am
- See the website for all the items on the agenda.

Other Business

- Blake Hill Bridge needs to have a new estimate.
- MDOT is stating that the bridge will be \$2.5 million dollars of which the town is responsible for 40%. Approximately \$1 million.
- Short Term Rentals
- A few residents of Minnehonk Lake Road attended the last meeting of the board stating that they wanted an ordinance for short-term rentals for several reasons.
- The Town of Fayette has an ordinance that is very strict and has been given to the Town of Mount Vernon's Ordinance Review Committee for review and recommendation.
- Many residents who do not live on Minnehonk Lake Road came to the meeting tonight to state their opposition to that ordinance.
- According to the CEO in Fayette, this ordinance passed by a very slim margin and affects residents who don't live on the lake, and it affects every resident's septic system by mandating an inspection.
- The Ordinance Review Committee meets on 02/26/2025.
- Renters are good for the local economy.
- Vendors who come to Mount Vernon events should not be allowed to use town resources.
- Dan Doray (CEO) has office hours on Saturday!
- Spectrum Internet has installed in 254 homes and is in the process of installing in 70 more.

Motion by Selectman Grenier to adjourn at 8:30 pm
Seconded by Selectman Shea. Motion passes: 3-0

Meeting Minutes

Selectboard and Planning Board

Town of Mount Vernon
Select Board Minutes
03/10/2025

Members' Present: Bob Grenier, Dan Shea, Carl Rogers

Members' Absent:

Members of the Public: Kerry Casey – Treasurer, Remington French – Deputy Treasurer, Tina Cagle – Administrative Assistant, Tom Jacobs, Noah Easter, Cathy Jacobs, Richard "RJ", Tyler Dunn, Michele Pino, Susan Herman, Quimby Robinson, Nona Boyink, Fred Webber, Heather Roberts,

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 pm 03/10/2025.

Motion by Selectman Grenier to approve the meeting minutes of 02/24/2025.

Seconded by Selectman Rogers. Motion passes: 3-0.

Ordinance Review Committee

- The committee is given recommendations to review, usually in the fall, for spring voting.
- The committee sends their recommendations to the Selectboard, and the board will review and act on those recommendations as they deem necessary. (i.e. by putting on the warrant for town vote or not putting on the warrant.)
- The 30 Mile Watershed recommended that the town look at an ordinance regarding short term rentals, by informing the homeowners about the impact that renters may have on the environment.
- A collaboration between the town, residents and the watershed to come up with an informational pamphlet or other means to communicate to the renters about the importance of respecting the area.

School Budget

- The RSU38 school budget needs to raise \$8.6 million for the upcoming school year.
- It is approximately \$23,300 to educate one student for a school year.
- Please visit their website at www.manarancook.org for more information.

Fire Hydrants and Knoxboxes

- Issues have arisen for the fire department and the hydrant at the boat launch.
- Since the installation of the boat launch at its current location, cars are being parked in the area of the boat launch, blocking the fire hydrant.
- There are multiple signs the state "No Parking".
- The chief would like to implement the use of a Knoxbox for gaining entry into residential homes rather than having a key for every homeowner.
- The annual fee would be \$895.

Lockes Corner

- All funds have been cancelled from the federal government.
- However left over funds from the January storm are available and we are applying for them.

Financial Policy

- This has been sent to the attorney for review.

Comprehensive Plan

- Anna has stated that the committee needs to start from scratch on the plan.
- Too many changes are needed.

Special Town Meeting

- A special town meeting will be held on March 15th @ 11 am at the Community Center.

Town Notifications

- The Board is looking at ways to notify all the town residents' have news, like the school notification system.

Other Business

- Safety at the transfer station.
- Employees are jumping into the bins to compact them.
- The town needs a piece of equipment that will compact down the bins.

Motion by Selectman Grenier to not allow any employee to enter any bin at the transfer station at any time.

Seconded by Selectman Rogers. Motion passes: 3-0

Motion by Selectman Grenier to adjourn at 9:18 pm

Seconded by Selectman Shea. Motion passes: 3-0

Meeting Minutes

Selectboard and Planning Board

Town of Mount Vernon - Planning Board Minutes
11/19/2024

Members Present: Dave Sanders, Chad Dwelley, Michael Smith

Members Absent: Ronald LaRue, Keith Coulling, Tyler Dunn, Fred Webber

Member of the Public: Administrative Assistant – Tina Cagle, CEO – Dan Doray, Matthew Wittek, Derek Theriault

I. Minutes of 10/15/2024

Motion by Michael Smith to approve the minutes as presented.

Second by Chad Dwelley. Motion passes 3-0

II. Site Plan Review – Matthew Wittek, the Old Grist Mill

- a. Mr. Wittek is renovating the Old Grist Mill
- b. It will have four (4) art studios for art/maker spaces
- c. It will have a 1-bedroom apartment on the 3rd floor that will be rented out.
- d. There will be a retail gift shop on the 1st floor and some storage areas.
- e. No earthmoving will be done.
- f. No expansion of the building.
- g. Review of the application
 - a. Item #5: Need registration number of the land surveyor.
 - b. Item #10: Update the current zoning of the property
 - c. Item #16: Research and answer.
 - d. Item #17: Complete the abutters information.
 - e. Item #23: Research and answer.
 - f. Item #26: Research and answer.
 - g. Item #27: Research and answer.
 - h. Item #29: Need a copy of the perimeter survey.
- h. Site Visit to be held on Saturday 12/07/2024 @ 8 am.

V. Other Business

- Derek Theriault – Timber Harvesting
 - Mr. Theriault met with the CEO just before the meeting to help him with this process.
 - Explained to the board what he was looking to do and where.
 - He is not having anything done within the 250' mark of the water line.
 - It will be more than 50 cord wood cut down.
 - The board recommended giving the CEO his application and the town will move forward on his application from there.

Motion by Chad Dwelley to adjourn @ 7:47 pm.

Seconded by Michael Smith. Motion passes: 3-0