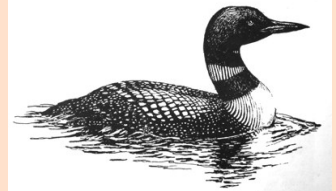


Town of Mount Vernon Community Newsletter



www.mtvernonme.org

August 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 @ 207-951-2385
anna@mtvernonme.org

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

Carl Rogers @ 207-200-8058
carl@mtvernonme.org

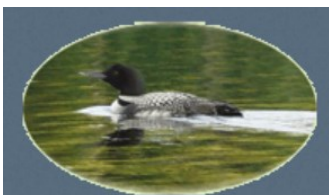
Select Board Admin. Assistant

Open position

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

Open Position - let us know if you are interested!!

Cemetery Sexton

Bob Grenier @ 293-2783
bob@mtvernonme.org

Code Enforcement Officer and Plumbing Inspector

Bill Butler Work: @ 293-2636
Cell: 446-6541
CEO@mtvernonme.org
Tuesdays 8am-4pm

Fire Chief

Jason Beckler @ 293-2114
(non-emergencies)

General Assistance

Anna Libby @ 951-2385
anna@mtvernonme.org

Health Officer

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
June thru September 30th open on Wednesdays from 3-6pm

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

newsletter@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 Meetings are now live streamed here:

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

Help wanted

The town is looking for a new Health Officer. You need not be an Medical Doctor.

The select board is looking for a new Administrative assistant. Email: selectboard@mtvernonme.org

From the Mount Vernon Select Board

Hello to our friends and neighbors,

The summer is a busy time in town, with a multitude of events and activities for all ages. We hope you're enjoying the gatherings so far, and that you're marking your calendars for some of the upcoming events. There are community meals, reading programs, craft fairs, auctions, and much more to enjoy! We are lucky to live in a place where so many folks are dedicated to making such a vibrant community for all of us. Thank you to everyone who put these happenings together!

We hope you're also enjoying getting to be outside, enjoying local trails or the town beach. If you're spending time there, you'll notice the delineators have been reinstalled downtown. This project helps slow traffic in a busy area so it is safe for those out and about. Thanks to the CPC for their work on this and many other important town projects.

The Broadband committee has also been hard at work, moving that important infrastructure project forward. Please take a look at their column in this newsletter to catch up on all their news and happenings!

The Selectboard has been busy as well, working to move forward various ongoing projects. We are hoping to soon launch our refreshed website which will be more user friendly for both all of you and for those needing to make updates. Keep an eye out for this refreshed resource in the coming weeks.

See you around town!

Anna and the Selectboard

August Dates to Remember:

- **08-01-22—Select Board Meeting in the Town Hall at 7:00PM**
- **08-02-22—Men's Breakfast in the Community Center at 7:00AM**
- **08-03-22—Broadband Committee (Zoom) meeting at 06:30 - 07:30PM**
- **08-03-22—Community Center Board of Trustees in Community Center at 7:00PM**
- **08-06-22— Neighbors Driving Neighbors Community Breakfast, 9 to 11 am, at the MVCC**
- **08-09-22—Men's Breakfast in the Community Center at 7:00AM**
- **08-15-22—Select Board Meeting in the Town Hall at 7:00PM**
- **08-16-22—Planning Board Meeting in the Dr Shaw Memorial Library at 7:00PM**
- **08-16-22—Men's Breakfast in the Community Center at 7:00AM**
- **08-17-22—Broadband Committee (Zoom) meeting at 06:30 - 07:30PM**
- **08-18-22—Tax Assessor is in town. Make your appointment early at 293-2379**
- **08-23-22—Men's Breakfast in the Community Center at 7:00AM**
- **08-29-22—Select Board Meeting in the Town Hall at 7:00PM**
- **08-31-22—Broadband Committee (Zoom) meeting at 06:30 - 07:30PM**
- **09-14-22—Broadband Committee (Zoom) meeting at 06:30 - 07:30PM**
- **09-28-22—Broadband Committee (Zoom) meeting at 06:30 - 07:30PM**

If you have a meeting you want to post, please Email newsletter@mtvernonme.org

Mount Vernon Selectboard Meeting minutes – July 5, 2022

Attending: Bob Grenier (Selectboard) Ann Libby (Selectboard) Carl Rogers (Selectboard) Kerry Casey (Staff) Mark Gilbert (Zoom) Pat Rawson (in person) Bill Rosenberg (via Zoom) Ken Elliot (via Zoom) Scott and Rochelle Bridgham (in person).

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by Bob Grenier
No minutes to review and accept

First order of business was to choose the chair and GA Administrator for the current Selectboard
Anna made a motion to select Bob as chair, Carl seconded. Bob accepted. vote 2-0
Bob made a motion to select Anna as GA Administrator, Carl seconded. Anna accepted. Vote 2-0

Health Director/Officer replacement and discussion

Pat Rawson noted the Medical Director role is separate and distinct from the Health Officer role although Dan Onion served both roles.
Pat noted she is focused on identifying a Medical Director to provide guidance of the Rescue Services role. She wants to coordinate with the Selectboard should the Selectboard have any recommendations.
Several potential names were discussed. Pat R to reach out to these individuals to discuss both the Medical Director role and the Health Officer roles.
Requirement for the Medical Director role is that the person be or become familiar with the Maine EMS protocols.

Animal Control Search

Discussion noted this is a difficult job and that it is, at times, hard to deal with people. The role is focused on domesticated animals, not wildlife.
Suggestion made to post position on MMA job board.
Compensation is \$4,500.00 plus mileage at \$.46/mile. Keeping call logs is required

Broadband Committee

Chair Bill Rosenberg provided a short set of slides in the committee's request to have the Selectboard agree with the Broadband committee to enter into a non-binding letter of intent to negotiate with Matrix. This does not preclude further discussions with other potential vendors but reflects the committee's view that Matrix offers one of the strongest proposals.
Anna made the motion to accept the Broadband committee's request to enter into a non-binding letter of intent to negotiate with Matrix. Bob seconded the motion. The Selectboard agreed to support the Broadband Committee's request. Vote 3-0

New web site

Bob indicated some difficulty with getting the new web site set up. Training was not sufficient.
Carl offered to assist with getting the new site created per the site plan already developed.

Roadside memorial topics – determined this was on private property and is no longer an issue.

Mount Vernon Selectboard Meeting minutes – July 5, 2022 - continued

Possible discussion for next Selectboard meeting:

- ACO
- Vicki Wallack – Liquor license renewal for Olde Post Office Café
- Modern Pest Services – rates going up
- Solar Power agreement
- RFP for tar paving – Lee indicated we would not be able to ready this year.
- Overdrafts discussion

The following items will likely require a special meeting:

- Move the transmitter tower from current location on private property to town property
- Health Officer selection
- ACO

The Selectboard meeting went into Executive Session on 2 matters at 8:00 PM

- MSRA 405 6(A)
- Title 36 MRSA (4)(2)

The Selectboard came out of Executive Session at 8:35

Anna motioned to close the Selectboard meeting with Bob seconding the motion at 8:36.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - MT. VERNON FOOD BANK

Change Coming to the Food Bank

Starting Saturday, July 2, the full food bank including meal kits, meat boxes, dry goods and personal care items, will only be available on the first and third Saturdays of the month. During June, volunteers will work with customers to make sure you are able to come to the food bank on the most convenient week.

Fresh produce, fruit, baked goods, breads and miscellaneous items will be offered every Saturday of the month; feel free to come for these items at any time. Starting June 18, we will have our local farm share, this year from Emery Farm in Wayne, so there will be lots of fresh produce for everyone. Of course, volunteers will be happy to provide any specific item(s) that customers have an immediate need for at any time.

New customers are welcome to come any Saturday and we will provide enough food to get them through to the next full food bank day.

Our hours remain the same, 9:30 to 11:30; however, we will open as soon as the food bank is completely set up. We continue to offer curbside service if you would rather not come downstairs.

On another note, we have birthday bags provided by the local Girl Scouts; please ask if you have a birthday coming up in the family.

August 2022: Broadband In Mount Vernon

Where We've Been & Where We're Headed

At this year's June Town Meeting, the approval of Broadband warrant articles, marked a turning point for Broadband in Mount Vernon. We want to take this opportunity to take stock of where we've been and where we're headed. If you have questions or are part of a group of 5-10 or more that would like a meeting with a MVBBC representative, let us know at: mtvbrdbnd@gmail.com

Where We've Been From the emergence of the Broadband Committee in 2019 (see: [Town of Mount Vernon Comprehensive Plan](#)) through the pandemic and to the recent announcement of Maine's receipt of \$110 million of federal broadband funding, the case for broadband has never been more clear. So clear, in fact, that Washington D.C. Democrats and Republicans agree!

For broadband to be embraced by Mount Vernon voters, the MVBBC agreed that, like electricity and roads, broadband is an essential infrastructure, as such, it should adhere to the following set of principles:

1. Access should be universal – everyone in town who wants it should be able to get it
2. Cost should be affordable – to the town and individuals initially and over life of the infrastructure
3. Broadband must be high-quality – now and in the future to meet or exceed the standards necessary to compete with urban economies
4. Digital equity & inclusion support – making available access & equipment subsidies and training to close the digital divide
5. Planning and implementation processes must be transparent – all stakeholders should be able to make informed decisions regarding broadband for the town and themselves

Information, FAQs and meeting dates can be found on the [MVBBC website](#). On July 5, the Mount Vernon Selectboard approved and subsequently entered into a non-binding, exclusive Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with [Matrix Design Group](#), a company with over 27 years of experience developing and operating rural broadband networks, including neighboring Wilton, ME. This MOU permits negotiation of a contract to develop a broadband network for Mount Vernon.

August 2022: Broadband In Mount Vernon, (continued)

"As a native of Aroostook County, I know how important high-speed Internet is to the vitality of rural communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a renewed urgency to ensuring families have a reliable connection to their loved ones, co-workers, schools, and medical services. From spurring job creation to supporting telemedicine, access to high-speed Internet unlocks almost endless benefits and possibilities. Our bipartisan bill can help bridge the digital divide between urban and rural America by bringing broadband directly to homes and businesses in areas that lack it."

– Sen. Susan Collins

"Access to high-speed internet is a necessity for our rural communities to thrive in the 21st century. As essential infrastructure and the foundation for economic prosperity, broadband provides access to global markets, supports innovation across all sectors of the economy, modernizes health care delivery via the use of telehealth, enables growth in at-home enterprises and startups, allows more seniors to age at home, creates greater online learning options, and provides skills necessary to compete in today's workforce."

– Sen. Angus S. King, Jr.

Where We're Headed

As a result of the MOU and the Committee's work on Digital Equity and Digital Inclusion (DEDI) Plan* you can expect the following in the coming weeks and months:

Posting of the Digital Equity and Digital Inclusion (DEDI) Plan, associated survey results and first action steps. (If you have not already completed the DEDI survey you can [here](#))

Continuing public engagements – mailings, meetings, targeted surveys – sharing developments and obtaining input in a manner consistent with our guiding principles.

Telephone pole analysis in Mt Vernon, to refine potential broadband project cost estimates, and prepare for utility pole use permissions and grant applications

Final details of the Matrix Design Group contract to enable voters to decide on the future of the broadband infrastructure in Mount Vernon

If you have questions or are part of a group of 5-10 or more that would like a meeting with a MVBBC representative, let us know at: mtvbrdbnd@gmail.com

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.

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.



MOUNT VERNON YOUTUBE CHANNEL

You can watch the Select Board meeting LIVE now on YouTube at the link below. When we have enough subscribers, we can name our own link. Please help Mount Vernon to achieve our own dedicated YouTube Link. All we need is 100 subscribers.

Follow this link and then hit the subscribe button. The current URL is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3UCAtx3K5rqMCNAcBCqnLQ/live>

BS From the TS

Hello from the MTV Transfer Station!!

Just a couple things:

If you have donations for the share shack please run it by one of the attendants. I ask you to be mindful about what you think is a donation. If it's something you wouldn't take yourself then please don't leave it.

This is the season where everyone is cleaning out and the bulky has been almost filling up by the end of Saturday's.

I don't want to refuse anyone ever, but if you come on a Sunday at 11:50 with a truck load of shingles I may have to.

We are open Wednesdays 3 PM to 6 PM for the summer.

AUCTION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20TH

11 a.m. (preview at 10 a.m.)

Donations Needed

Are you trying to downsize and in need of a good home for some of grandma's "keepsakes"? Do you have a special talent or interest that you would be will to share or are you a craftsperson who might have an item to donate in exchange for some free advertising?

The Mount Vernon Community Center is having a fundraising event on Saturday, August 20. We are looking for donations of quality items/services to be auctioned off. Proceeds will be used for ongoing renovations and general upkeep on the community center building. So, YOUR help is needed to ensure that the community center continues to be a gathering place for our community.

Please consider making a donation and don't forget to mark the date on your calendar! As we get closer to the auction, we will be posting photos of items for sale. For further information or to arrange pickups, when needed, please contact: Daphne Sanders at 207-293-2619 or Tori Codd at 412-855-9933.

Thank You! from the Board of Trustees of the Community Center

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library August 2022
Submitted by Mary Anne Libby
Phone: 293-2565. Email: librarian@drshawlibrary.org
"To add a library to a house is to give that house a soul." Cicero

The summer is flying by! It has been so heartening to see our community members and summer friends coming in and out of the library. Enjoy the rest of the season!

Stories from the Metroplex: On Sunday, August 7th, 3PM, at the Mt. Vernon Community Center, we will host community story telling. We haven't done it in a couple of years, so we hope you have some new stories to tell your neighbors and friends – stories about the pandemic, or about how you came to this amazing community, something from your childhood, any piece of your history you'd like to share. Refreshments will be served.

The Story Walk will still be set up along the trails at the Ezra Smith Wildlife Conservation Area through the rest of the summer. This year's book is [The Wildlife Tree](#), by local author Peter Emery and illustrator Deborah Emery. Come enjoy a lovely family walk and read as you go. Thanks, as always, to Kennebec Land Trust for their care of this beautiful outdoor space in our community.

The Library Trustees will be welcoming a new piece of artwork to the landscape at the Library in the upcoming weeks. The Board commissioned Perry Johnson, II, proprietor of FoeHammer Forge Works, to design and construct a **memorial tree** to add to the garden landscape. Beautiful metal leaves with engraved loved one's names will be available to purchase, to honor those you love. Proceeds from the sale of leaves will go to the George Smith Memorial Fund at the library for the continued upkeep of the gardens. The pricing for the engraved metal leaves is \$20.00 each for the large size leaf, \$15.00 each for the small size leaf. A sample of the leaves may be seen at the library during regular open hours. Orders and payment may be given to the librarian in attendance. Each leaf will then be added to the tree by FoeHammer Forge Works to grow a very special and beautiful Memorial Tree.

We are so thankful for all the help we received each week from the parents and kids who participated in our summer reading programs. They helped stack chairs and tables, brought all of our craft supplies back and forth (including a heavy bin of Legos!), and were so supportive of our efforts. What a fun group of people! Many thanks to Tara Marble for her presentations – and the kids always love whatever projects Alice puts together!

Currently, we are looking for a few people who could be Tech Instruction volunteers. We are working with the Broadband committee's digital inclusion efforts as they develop their plans, and it would be so good to connect folks of all ages with a few volunteers who could instruct people about use of cell phones, email, google docs or Word, or other basic skills. Call the library at 293-2565 and leave a message, or email us at librarian@drshawlibrary.org. It might take a while to turn our ideas into action, and it would be great to know of people who might be able to help us get started on connecting community members to the larger world of information and communication.

The district school librarian has put together a list of Maranacook Black Bear Book Awards for area students to enjoy throughout the upcoming school year. She has shared the list with us, and we've purchased them and they are currently stacked on the mantel in the children's room. We hope you enjoy this collection, it covers a wide variety of topics, both fiction and nonfiction. I especially love Max Greenfield's [I Don't Want to Read This Book](#) – it is quite amusing!

Online Resource: a good resource for families is the Raising Readers website. You can visit it at <https://www.raisingreaders.org>. They have all sorts of wonderful book lists, and they also offer printable downloads for various early literacy activities and ideas for parents to try with their kids.

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library August 2022 (Continued)

Currently I am paging through a lot of books of poetry, to prepare for the Community Poetry Reading on Saturday, July 30 (3pm) at MVCC. Otherwise, I have just started Susan B. Inches' book, Advocating for the Environment. I will pass it along to the library when I have finished. What are you reading as you check your tomato plants each day, put up raspberry or blueberry jam, and stack firewood?

LOOKING FOR TOOL LIBRARIANS!

Did you know that Mount Vernon has a lending library for tools? They're mostly gardening tools, because the little library (in the red shed up by the Town Office parking lot) was funded with grants from foundations seeking to help residents become more self-sufficient and save money by growing some of the food they eat.

But we need a few volunteers to help with the Tool Library. A volunteer who has been active in getting things to where they are today will soon move from town. Before he goes, it would be great if one or a few good men and/or women would step forward to help. If you might be one of them, please call Tom Ward at 293-1016.

NEIGHBORS DRIVING NEIGHBORS

NDN is hosting our annual Community Breakfast on Aug. 6, from 9 to 11 am at the Mount Vernon Community Center. Stop by to enjoy delicious homemade egg casseroles, potatoes, fruit and pastries. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet with your neighbors and catch up.

CONTACT: Phone: 207-860-0677

Email: neighborsdrivingneighbors@gmail.com

Web: neighborsdrivingneighbors.org

Mail:
Neighbors Driving Neighbors
P.O. Box 142
Mount Vernon, ME 04352



Vienna/Mount Vernon Community

Antique Fair and Flea Market



Saturday, August 27, 8 am to 2 pm

At the Vienna Historical Society Grounds

Hwy 41 in Vienna

Antiques, Collectibles and Junque

Lots of Treasures – Lots of Parking

FOOD

FREE SPACE FOR SELLERS!!!

CFMI 293-4815