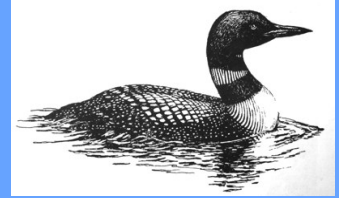


Town of Mount Vernon Community Newsletter



www.mtvernonme.org

September 2022 Edition

TOWN OFFICE STAFF

Town Office

Phone: 207-293-2379
Fax: 207-293-3507
clerk@mtvernonme.org
Mon 8am-6pm
Tue, Wed, & Thu 7am-3pm
Fri, Sat & Sun - Closed

Town Clerk & Tax Collector

Heather Wheeler @ 207-293-2379
clerk@mtvernonme.org

Deputy Clerk

Rachel Meader @ 207-293-2379
deputyclerk@mtvernonme.org

Treasurer

Kerry Casey @ 207-293-1103
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

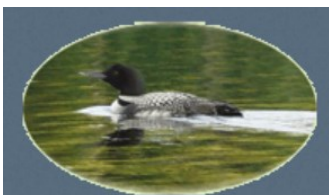
Select Board Admin. Assistant

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

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

Bill Butler Work: @ 207-293-2636
Cell: 207-446-6541
CEO@mtvernonme.org
Tuesdays 8am-4pm

Fire Chief

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

General Assistance

Anna Libby @ 207-951-2385
anna@mtvernonme.org

Health Officer

Rachel Criswell, MD

Rescue Director

Pat Rawson @ 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

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library

207-293-2565
Website: drshawlibrary.org
Email: librarian@drshawlibrary.org

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

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

See page 11 for more details.

From the Mount Vernon Select Board

The Selectboard started off the year looking for an Animal Control Officer and a Health Officer. Eric Johnson from Readfield was hired as our Animal Control Officer please treat him with respect. He is also doing the job in Readfield. The ACO's job does not include dealing with wild animal issues that are not a threat to public safety.

The Board approved the use of road delineators in the Village to help slow down traffic. They have been installed and will be removed come fall.

Carl has worked hard to get the new Town Website up and going. Check it out. Selectboard agenda and minutes will be on the site along with other useful information.

We are looking for two people to serve on the Appeals Board.

We are glad to have found Rachel Criswell, MD to be our new Health Officer and medical advisor to the Rescue squad.

Sometime in late September or October we will be having a drug take back program. It will be put on by the Kennebec County Sheriff. We will let you know in advance of the date.

I hope the summer was great for you.

Bob and the Selectboard

September Dates to Remember:

- **09-08-22—Broadband Committee, Digital Inclusion sub-comm. (Zoom) meeting at 04:30PM**
- **09-12-22—Select Board Meeting in the Town Hall at 7:00PM**
- **Every Tuesday—Men's Breakfast in the Community Center at 7:00AM**
- **09-14-22—Broadband Committee (Zoom) meeting at 06:30 - 07:30PM**
- **09-20-22—Planning Board Meeting in the Dr Shaw Memorial Library at 7:00PM**
- **09-26-22—Select Board Meeting in the Town Hall at 7:00PM**
- **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

Town hall will be closed for the Labor Day holiday.



Mount Vernon Selectboard Meeting minutes – August 1, 2022

Attending: Bob Grenier (Selectboard) Anna Libby (Selectboard) Carl Rogers (Selectboard) Kerry Casey (Staff) Bill Rosenberg (In person) Scott and Rochelle Bridgham (In person) Peter Lewis (in person) Barry Skilling (in person) Maureen Brescia (in person) Alice Counts (in person) Aaron Berls (in person) Josh Neptune (in person) Wendy Stevens (in person) Doug Stevens (in person) Chuck Wright (in person) Chris Lynch (in person)

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Bob Grenier Minutes from July 18 meeting were accepted. Question was asked whether meeting minutes need to be recorded or are minutes alone sufficient.

Anna will pursue Health Officer and Health Director position independently. Suggestion was made to post positions to collect a wider set of possible candidates.

Animal Control Officer Bob suggested hiring Eric Johnson from Readfield as Animal Control Officer for a 6 month period A motion was made to hire Eric Johnson as Animal Control Officer for a 6 month period at a rate of \$1500.00 with mileage at a rate of .46 per mile. Motion was voted on 3-0

North Road Drainage at the Dunn house: State to provide materials, Town to provide cost of labor estimated at \$10,000 to \$15,000. Work needs to be put on State schedule Plan is to remove sediment that collects in basin yearly Recommendation to put pressure on the state to take action on this.

Broadband project Bill Rosenberg introduced Chris from Matrix, the company the town is negotiating with on a possible FTTH project (needs voter approval to proceed with the full project).

Authorization to pay the final invoice for \$3,300 from Mission Broadband from ARPA funds for consulting services related to the first authorization. Total spend is \$15,000 with this invoice. Motion to pay invoice for \$3,300.00 by Bob, Anna seconded. Carl is abstaining while question about serving on the Broadband committee is researched with MMA. Motion accepted 2-0 2.

Extension requested for Mission Broadband from ARPA funds for up to an additional \$15,000 to assist with contract negotiations, writing of grants as well as technical review. Motion made by Bob to grant extension for an additional \$15,000 to assist with contract negotiations, writing of grants and technical review. Anna seconded. Motion passed 2-0. 3.

Request was made for up to \$9,000.00 from ARPA funds to pay for grant writing assistance at a rate of \$35.00 per hour by Remington French. Resume was submitted for review. Bob made a motion to authorize up to \$9,000 to pay Remington French, on a contract basis (1099), (Kerry enumerated 1099 requirements), as needed, to assist with grant writing/editing. Motion was passed 2-0. 4.

Request was made for \$57,500 of ARPA funds to accept and pay for Matrix Design Group's proposal to conduct pole surveying, Pole Attachment Application Creation and Submittal. Bob made a motion to authorize payment of up to \$57,500 from ARPA funds to pay for Matrix Design Group's proposal to conduct pole surveying, Pole Attachment Application creation and submittal. Motion was passed 2-0.

Transfer station update: Bulk waste container is filling up on Wednesday's leaving no room for weekend drop offs. Bob suggested that we acquire an extra bin at a rate of \$50.00 per month. Anna made a motion to authorize acquiring another bin and paying a rate of \$50.00 per month. Carl seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Drug take-back in October; Liquid paint drop off; Use of Belgrade transfer station for trash with sticker Bob talked with Belgrade and will work with the Sheriff's Office on a drug take-back day in October. Also looking into option of taking paint cans with liquid paint in them. Bob indicated that residents close to Belgrade can buy stickers so that Mount Vernon residents would be able to drop their trash off in Belgrade. Belgrade sticker price was not available.

New website status Carl met with Angelique and Rob last week to discuss next steps on website.

Sitemap is in place. Content will be brought over by Revize. Rob expected that to be completed by Aug 5 but we are waiting for confirmation that the date. We should have content on the new website by next week. Need to determine the cutover date from the old site to the new site.

Mount Vernon Selectboard Meeting minutes – August 1, 2022 - continued

New Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens Over 65 Kerry described new tax stabilization process to freeze your tax rate if over 65, lived in Maine and qualified for homestead exemption for past 10 years. The state intends to reimburse towns for revenue lost but not guaranteed.

Roger, our assessor, would like to look at taxes with residents who come in. Check with MMA to confirm there are no privacy rules that would be impacted. Otherwise, consider providing access to Trio systems to Roger.

Heather would like to receive the Kennebec Journal mailed to her electronically. Kerry to work with Heather to recover Kennebec Journal subscription.

Discussion about testing the beach lake water. Bob to purchase testing kit and complete the water test.

It was noted that the microphone at the community center was not working. Check with Mark to see what the issue is. It was noted that a backup microphone would be provided for the function to be held at the community center by one of the constituents who plans to be there.

Doug Stevens was appointed to the Planning Board Rochelle asked about getting on the budget committee. Bob indicated there was not currently an opening.

Check to see if there are any issues with familial conflicts when serving on the SelectBoard.

It was noted that the Collins and King quotes used in the Broadband article published in the newsletter was partisan and should not be permitted. Bob agreed that partisan quotes should not be included in newsletters. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Mount Vernon Selectboard Meeting Minutes – August 15, 2022

Attending: Bob Grenier (Selectboard Chair) Anna Libby (Selectboard – remote) Carl Rogers (Selectboard) Kerry Casey (Staff) Alice Counts (In person) Barry Skilling (In person) Doug Stevens (In person) Aaron Berls (In person) Wendy Stevens (In person)

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 by Bob Grenier Minutes from the August 1st meeting were accepted. 3-0

Resignation of Tom Ward, Chair of the Aging in Place committee was accepted by a motion to accept the resignation. 3-0.

Bob stated that Pat Rawson identified a potential candidate for the Health Officer and Health Director positions. Bob is planning to call the candidate to determine whether there is a fit for these roles.

Travis Mills Foundation – requested approval for a golf cart crossing at 647 Castle Island Road. The understanding is the state determines final approval but approval from the town is required prior to DOT action. Motion was made to accept implementing a golf cart crossing at 647 Castle Island Rd. 3-0

Bob responded to questions from a prior Selectboard meeting about Selectboard members being able to vote when they also serve on advisory committees. Bob checked with MMA attorneys and reported that being able to vote as Selectboard members while on advisory committees is permitted. Also, family members of Selectboard members may serve on other committees with voting rights.

Bob indicated that neither recordings of meetings nor minutes of meetings are required and agendas do not have to be posted. That said, Mount Vernon strives to provide agendas, minutes from meetings and recordings of meetings that are posted on our website or are available via YouTube. Given the transition of websites now occurring, recent minutes of meetings have not been posted on the old site. The new site is scheduled to go live this week where agendas and minutes will be posted going forward.

Recommendation was made to hire Modern Pest to remove bees from the front step of the Community Center.

Mount Vernon Selectboard Meeting minutes – August 15, 2022 - continued

Item brought up by Doug Stevens regarding observation of a resident of the town of Mount Vernon picking through scrap at the transfer station. It was noted that a citation was given to another resident found doing a similar thing a couple of weeks ago and that a citation should also be given to this person. Bob clarified that no citations were given previously. Discussion ensued about the feasibility of putting cameras up at the transfer station to monitor what is going on there after hours to limit liability.

Transfer station shepherds hook was received and the extra bin should be available soon. Recommendation was made that policies, procedures be made available. It was noted that the new website has our ordinances, policies available. Doug asked about getting a hard copy of the latest ordinance manual for use on the planning board. The topic of reviewing the fee schedule was discussed. It was decided that Bill Butler should be available for the conversation since the new fees were largely a function of Bill's recommendations. We want to be sure we are setting fees that cover costs but are not so high they discourage appropriate challenges.

Blake Hill bridge update – the late winter/early spring engineering updates were completed. Anna drafted a letter to the DOT to proceed with next steps. A motion was made to accept the letter Anna wrote and send it to the DOT. Motion passed 3-0. Bob then discussed a conversation with Steve Cole who indicated the project was not on the DOT 2023 schedule. It is more likely that it will be on the 2024 schedule. There were some comments about building the bridge without state supervision and that the cost in 2024 would be considerably higher. Bob stated Steve felt the \$260,000 approved by the town would be sufficient even with the 60% state/40% town funding agreement. Bob noted the bridge will not be torn out until it will be definitely rebuilt.

Kerry noted lapsed accounts will be discussed in our next meeting along with the dog ordinance. Land-use ordinance also needs to be updated to include correction made at the town meeting. The orange copy also needs to include corrections from years past. Discussion about the version of the document Alice worked on. We'll need someone from the ordinance review committee to come in and make changes needed.

There was a discussion about identifying a cooling and heating center for town, possibly at the Community Center. Reach out to Mike Wenzel. There was no swim program this summer. A resident's daughter wants to get trained to do lessons next summer. Would the town be willing to pay for the daughter's lessons? Discussion about liability. All previous instructors went through the YMCA training program. We may need to take this approach with this person.

The Selectboard went into executive session MSRA 405 6(A) at 7:56. The Selectboard came out of executive session at 8:15. No action was taken. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.



INVESTING IN FIBER TO THE HOME

Broadband committee update



Mt. Vernon Broadband

The Town of Mt Vernon will be voting soon to decide whether to invest tax dollars and take on a 20-year debt obligation to build a fiber to the home (FTTH) infrastructure throughout the town. It is important to consider the benefits and value added to the individual families and the town in making such a decision

Short Term Benefits (1st 5 years)

If ½ the town signs up and the town receives grant awards as expected, then these benefits are expected.

- ◆ Speeds of 50mbps/50mbps to 1gig
- ◆ Lower costs and better service for most who now have internet. Expected savings will cover the tax increase for most
- ◆ Reliability and quality of the new service will make possible the option of eliminating “telephone land lines”. Voice over Internet or Wi-Fi-assisted cell service will result in additional savings
- ◆ Enhances property values if selling or renting, particularly in underserved areas
- ◆ Fiber lines will better handle work and micro business requirements needing better upload speeds than are now available.
- ◆ Will keep Mt Vernon competitive with other similar size towns that are also pursuing broadband solutions.

Long Term Benefits

Many of the benefits listed below are now found in larger metropolitan areas. A FTTH network has the ability to increase Internet 10-fold using the same network. This enables significant benefits in the following areas:

Advances in Business and Economic Development

- ◆ The up- and download speeds needed for advanced imaging, e.g.:
- ◆ 3D imaging & holograms that allow customers to see products in 3D;
- ◆ Service techniques that allow companies to better service problems or help customers learn about the product.
- ◆ Tools used in high-paying jobs such as software design,
- ◆ Provision of 3D images of proposed construction allowing contractors and carpenters to better plan and assist customers decide on end products.
- ◆ Locating products and services in world markets
- ◆ Better video uploads for businesses (often in home) that provide “how-to “advice
- ◆ Access to new tools to keep track of farm markets, analyze and manage soil preparation, and how-to videos to use and maintain farm equipment.

September 2022: Broadband In Mount Vernon, (continued)

Education and training

- ◆ Virtual reality simulators allowing students more engaged learning
- ◆ New tools for students to use at home for skill development, creativity, and collaboration with other students
- ◆ Better advanced education to enhance skills, supplement on the job training
- ◆ Maintain part-time remote employment while pursuing higher-education
- ◆ Use simulators to practice skills in virtual real time for nursing, EMTs or large equipment operation

Telemedicine

- ◆ 3D imaging and visual communication for remote diagnosis and monitoring of patients after hospitalization (e.g. patients with cardiac problems, diabetes, etc.
- ◆ EMT access to patient medical records to improve on-site treatment and minimize damage in an emergency
- ◆ Internet capacity and reliability that will enable remote monitoring of shut-ins or home bound elders.

In Home or External Environment Management

- ◆ Remote monitoring of premises and external environments for fire hazards, air quality, loss of heat and trespassers
- ◆ Tools for property owners to sample water and soil conditions and get real time analysis.
- ◆ Enhanced security systems for schools, churches, places of business and residents, for example to scan for weapons and/ or body armor

Entertainment

- ◆ Speeds sufficient to support Newer 4K (or higher) Smart TVs
- ◆ Virtual reality that can enable a viewer to see a ball as the batter or football player receives it.
- ◆ Travel virtually and have a more 3D experiences than is available today.
- ◆ Improve golf or tennis strokes with real time monitoring and evaluation
- ◆ Self help for hobbies such as knitting, weaving, quilting, pottery, fly tying, artistic endeavors, making music alone or collaboratively gets better as real time interactions over the internet become available
- ◆ Improved access to competitive gaming requiring fast reactions in gaming.

Digital Inclusion Benefits

- ◆ Improved eligibility for support grant opportunities.
- ◆ Better access to civic events and meetings.
- ◆ Additional internet public access and more hot spots
- ◆ Better marketing of town tourism opportunities

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.

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

"The truth is libraries are raucous clubhouses for free speech, controversy, and community."
Paula Poundstone

We still recommend that we all wear masks while in the library, especially as school starts again and people are returning from various trips. We do try to keep a supply of masks on the counter right inside the main entrance. It is one small thing we can do to keep each other healthy.

Let us know of any *updates to your phone, email, or address* when you come into the library, so we know how to contact you & let you know when your reserve or interlibrary loan book has arrived for you!

Many thanks to Peter Roderick for addressing a few *tech issues* for us, and for updating our public computers so that our online catalog is accessible! If anyone else can volunteer to help with various tech needs that come up from time to time, please let us know!

Perry is working on inscribing more metal leaves to go on the memorial tree near the library driveway. Come in and let us know if you want to add a loved one to this wonderful work of art!

Programs:

1. On September 17, 4PM, at the Mt. Vernon Community Center, we are hosting an improv theater show created by the Marti Stevens Interactive Improvisational Theater group. Their productions use humor and great interactions to present many themes from our current lives, through safe, artistic expression. Please join us!
2. We are hoping to put together a talk by Vienna author David Wilson, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 22, at 1pm, here at the library. We will confirm the date soon. David is the author of Two Seasons and Peanut Butter Memoirs. He is a Maine native, and you can learn more by visiting his author's website (Ma's Diner Author's Site), or his website: www.twoseasons.org Stay tuned!

Some websites to visit:

1. We often recommend the various resources available through PBS Kids. Did you know they include a page for learning games? Check them out at <https://pbskids.org/games/all-topics/> There are science games where you can build your own habitat or play sports with dinosaurs, and you can delve into social studies, the alphabet, food, math, and more!
2. A Maine website for those who guide & teach children in outdoor and environmental learning is <https://teachmeoutside.org>. Teach Me Outside is a good source for homeschoolers, teachers, and scout leaders.

I've been reading Sally Rooney's latest novel, Beautiful World Where Are You? What are you reading as the leaves start changing and you attend to the late harvest of your garden?

From Susan Onion & the Onion Family:

We would like to thank the communities of Mount Vernon and Vienna for the support you provided our family during Dan's memorial service on July 29th. We were so appreciative of all of you who helped with parking and traffic control, met the tent crew, set up chairs, organized refreshments, baked cookies, ushered and handed out programs, greeted and guided people, set up the sound system and cleaned up following the service. Dan loved this community and would have appreciated the collaborative effort that came together to create a perfect service in his memory.

Thank you from all of us.

From: Cindy Murphy—Board Member/Outreach Committee Member

Neighbors Driving Neighbors: Who We Serve

As a new board member, I am always glad to be an ambassador for NDN. I recently encountered two individuals who I recommended call NDN to register as riders. One was an elderly man who can no longer drive, but still needed to get to his doctor's appointments. He lives with his sister but doesn't always want to have to rely on her. Another person's wife needs to get to dialysis appointments a few times each week. He is still working and strives to always be there for his wife, but could use some help. These are just two real life examples of how Neighbors Driving Neighbors can help.

Our riders range in age from 24-99, and more than half are older than 65. More than two-thirds live alone, and roughly half are in a low-income bracket. Younger riders use our services due to losing a license, or having a disability that prevents them from driving, or simply lacking transportation. Some of our older adults have never had a license; many have had to give up driving due to age-related medical concerns. Some riders use us only for a short time, in recovering from surgery, for instance; others need long-term transportation assistance.

We are glad to serve them all. If you or someone you know needs a ride, give us a call at 207-860-0677.



Email: neighborsdrivingneighbors@gmail.com

Web: neighborsdrivingneighbors.org

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

2022
Readfield Rec.
Soccer Sign-ups

SCAN TO REGISTER ONLINE

& Remember to join us for
SKILLS &
DRILLS DAY

@ RSU 38 Middle School Field
 Saturday August 27th
 10:30am-11:30am

NOT RSU SPONSORED

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.READFIELDMAINE.ORG/RECREATION/PAGES/SOCCER-REGISTRATION-SIGN-UPS

Some of the duties of the Administrative Assistant include:

- ◆ Attends Board of Selectmen meetings, helps prepare agendas, provides supporting documents and information pertinent to agenda items, and writes meeting minutes.
- ◆ Organizes and maintains filing of both electronic and physical documents.
- ◆ Works in a collaborative manner with Board of Selectmen, Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, department heads, and the public; supports processes for effective information flow and sharing.
- ◆ Acts as liaison between selectmen and all Town departments, boards, committees, commissions, as well as citizens. Advises and communicates with the Board of Selectmen thereof.
- ◆ Organizes and prepares for Town Meeting and special town meetings including preparing warrants, producing the town report, and ensuring set up of meeting space and that copies of materials are available.
- ◆ Produces the monthly town newsletter.
- ◆ May also need to attend and take minutes for other committees, such as Planning Board and Board of Appeals.

Essentials skills and experience should include:

- ◆ Significant experience with the Microsoft Office suite of products.
- ◆ Communicating effectively orally and in writing, including research capability and reporting ability.
- ◆ Listening to, and accepting, criticism; must possess conflict resolution skills and public relation skills. Practices discretion and sound judgement.

Email selectboard@mtvernonme.org if interested.