

Vienna News Letter

December '24 & January '25

Vol. 27 No, 6

SELECT BOARD MINUTES

December 03, 2024

Present: Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Kerry Casey, and Ed Lawless

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant #23 (\$107,723.01).
4. The select board reviewed a couple property cards.
5. Reviewed and signed Vienna Broadband Warrant # 7 (\$1,383.94).
6. The selectboard talked with Ed about the Central Office as it needs to be insulated, sided, interior sheathed, and a door installed before Axiom will be able to start installing their rack for the electronics. The pole at the Central Office will need to be replaced with a taller one. A second order of fiber was delivered on Monday, 12/01/24. The selectboard will set up an open house once the Broadband Central Office is completed.
8. The selectmen signed three abatements.
9. Meeting adjourned.

December 10, 2024

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, and Laura Church

1. No meeting due to the weather.

December 17, 2024

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Kerry Casey, and Mike Rogers

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant # 24 (\$19,810.40).
4. The select board met with Charles Beader and discussed contracts and grants. The select board signed a contract to have SeaBoard Drill start drilling for core samples at the crossing which need the culverts changed to concrete crossings.
5. Reviewed and signed Vienna Broadband Warrant # 8 (\$4,775.45).
6. The Town will cover 50% and the employee will cover 50% of the 1% needed for Family Medical Leave.
7. Meeting adjourned.

SELECT BOARD MINUTES CONTINUED

December 24, 2024 and December 31, 2024

No meeting due to Holiday.

January 07, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, and Kerry Casey

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant # 25 (\$19,274.91).
4. The select board discussed the heat pump installation and it has been awarded to Fitch Heating.
5. Reviewed and signed Warrant # 01 (\$101,273.46).
6. The Townhouse exterior light will be replaced with a dusk to dawn LED light.
7. The electric box at the firestation will need to upgrade to a 200 amp service.
8. The culvert on the Mason Road will need to be replaced as it is allowing water to run across the road and is causing damage.
9. The select board started to review the 2025 Town Warrant.
10. Reviewed and signed Vienna Broadband Warrant# 9 (\$9,605.00).
11. Meeting adjourned.

January 14, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Jeanie Rackliff, and Felica Audett

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. The select board reviewed the 2025 Town Warrant.
4. Meeting adjourned.

January 21, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Kerry Casey, Ed Lawless, Stan Webster, Tom Jewett, and Beth Trehue

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant # 2 (\$1,680.00).
4. The select board reviewed and adjusted the 2025 Town Meeting Warrant.
5. Discussed when the heat pump would be installed in the Central Office. The heat pump will be installed January 28, 2025.
6. The Treasurer will look into when CMP and Consolidated Communications cashed checks as they have a specified time to complete work after cashing the checks.
7. Stan Webster requested the Town to donate \$1,250.00 to the Franklin Cemetery in order to fix broken headstones.
8. Beth Trehue, from The 30 Mile Watershed, reviewed the 2024 report with the selectboard and requested an increase from \$3000.00 to \$5000.00 in contribution.
9. Dan Goucher called to request a \$5000.00 increase to both the road maintenance and the paving account.
10. Meeting adjourned.

SELECT BOARD MINUTES CONTINUED

January 28, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Kerry Cassey, and Matt Rungi

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. The select board talked with Matt and provided him a copy of his property card.
4. The select board worked on draft 4 of the 2025v Town Warrant.
5. The selectboard discussed the new driveway permit process. Any new driveways will need to receive a Driveway/Culvert Permit from the Road Commissioner. The 911 Addressing Officer will require this permit before a house number is given.
6. Meeting adjourned.

TOWN CLERK ANNOUNCEMENT

The Municipal election is March 7, 2025 from 4pm to 8pm.

The town meeting will be held March 8, 2024 at 9am.

The Town Clerk and Tax Collector's hours are:

Tuesday 5pm - 7pm

Wednesday 9am - 12:00 and 12:30pm - 5pm

Thursday 10am - 1pm

The last Saturday of the month 9am - 12pm

Thank you,
Annie Tibbetts

Mt. Vernon Community Center and
Eleanor Philbrick Trust for the Arts
Present

Anni Clark



Sunday, February 23, 2:00 pm

[Storm date, March 2, 2:00 pm]

>Mt Vernon Community Center<

Folk, pop, and blues (with a dash of Maine Hue'mah)

Suggested \$10+ donation benefits Mt Vernon Food Bank!

FMI: 293-4321 aniwdew0791@consolidated.net



□Anni's gift for spotting silver lining amidst chaos shines in the recent release of her eighth album: *Will it Ever be the Same* □



PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE VIENNA PLANNING BOARD HELD DECEMBER 4, 2024

This meeting was scheduled to make up for those scheduled in November and later in December, which were cancelled due to the holidays.

The meeting began at 7:00 PM at the Town House. Regular members present were Waine Whittier, Creston Gaither, Alan Williams, Ed Lawless, and Tim Bickford.

Minutes of the October 23 meeting were read and accepted.

The Board discussed the possibility of enacting a temporary moratorium on solar power farms in Vienna. It was agreed 5 – 0 that the Board should propose a 1 year moratorium on such farms, in anticipation of eventually enacting an ordinance regulating them. Alan will try to find a model moratorium ordinance for the Board to work from.

It was noted that the broadband building under construction on the Community Center site does not appear to have a Shoreland Zoning Ordinance permit. Alan will suggest to the Selectmen that they apply for one. Creston agreed to produce the necessary sketch.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.



Creston Gaither, secretary



LIBRARY COLUMN

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library

293-2565 librarian@drshawlibrary.org

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

"Libraries today...can be a sanctuary, a place to get answers, to ask questions, or simply a companionable place to be alone. They can also be a place of enrichment." Courtenay Rudzinski

During the winter months on bad weather days, please check our Facebook page or call us during our usual hours, to see if we have had to close, before you venture out to be with us.

Our usual ongoing activities:

Drop-in Tech Help with Remi, on Wednesday mornings between 9 & Noon. Bring your device, ask for assistance, request help in setting up a new app or program, or mention other tech issues you might have. This is such a valuable (and popular) service we are able to offer!

Yarn Group meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons of each month at the library, from 1-3PM. Bring your yarn or crochet (or other craft) project and spend a couple of hours with a friendly and helpful group of folks. They often have some extra needles or crochet hooks, and can help you navigate a tricky yarn project.

Game Group just started up their gatherings again in late January. They meet at the library on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday afternoons of each month, from 3-5PM. All adults are welcome, bring your own board game if you wish, and we have some to share at the library. There is often much laughter, this is a good chance to spend time together throughout the winter months. If you can carpool or park in our small lower lot or downtown, that can be helpful, so our patrons can also use our parking area during their library visits. Join the fun!

Book Bingo for 2024 is finished. We handed out 3 prize gift cards to folks who added their names to the jar of raffle tickets and handed in their bingo pages. Now we are finishing our work on putting together the **2025 Book Bingo**, and hope to have it on the table in the main room quite soon! This is a fun personal reading challenge, and some of our participants said they liked it because they wound up reading books that they normally don't explore. We hope you try this, and enjoy the endeavor!

Tax Help: As of this writing, we still have a few time slots for AARP Tax Help in March (February is full). Our days that still have appointments available are Saturday, March 8 and Saturday March 22. Give us a call to see if we can fit you in. You can also call The Cohen Community Center at 620-1183 for an appointment with them in Hallowell. Many thanks to the AARP folks at the Cohen Center, and to our local Tax Guru, David!

We now have an electronic keyboard upstairs, if you want to try playing a bit of music. We have a pair of headphones with it, so you can just play so only you can hear it. Come on in and play, if you want to chase away the winter blues!

Some of our readers' most popular books in 2024:

Adult Fiction --

The Women, Kristin Hannah

The Berry Pickers, Amanda Peters

Three-Inch Teeth, C.J. Box

The Frozen River, Ariel Lawhon (set in Maine)

How to Read a Book, Monica Wood (Maine author)

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store, James McBride

A few Juvenile books --

Any of the Garfield comic books by J. Davis (always popular)

Construction Site: Taking Flight!, Sherry D. Rinker

Celia Planted a Garden: the story of Celia Thaxter and her island garden, Phyllis Root (biographical picture book, about a well-known Maine writer & gardener)

I just finished an old classic epistolary novel, Daddy-Long-Legs, by Jean Webster. What are you reading, cuddled up under a blanket, during this cold spell?

BROADBAND UPDATE

Vienna Broadband update #2 – January 2025

Again, thank you for your patience and continued support as we work to bring Vienna's municipally owned fiber-to-the-home broadband network to every resident in our town. We know the delays in the make-ready process with CMP and Consolidated Communications have been frustrating, and we deeply appreciate your understanding as we navigate these challenges. However, we are encouraged by the progress being made.

Since the last update in the December newsletter:

- * More work has been completed on the **Network Hub** at the Vienna Fire Dept.
- * Taller replacement poles continue to be put in and wires transferred to the poles.

What is holding us up at this point??

- CMP still needs to set 25 new poles and do "make ready jobs" on 23 poles. A CMP representative said the pole replacement is going slower than they anticipated but they are working on it.
- Although there are large areas in town where CMP has finished their work, Consolidated says they don't want to send out their trucks until CMP is completely done so they won't get in each other's way. (OK Kids, lets learn to work together!)

You are probably seeing FIDIUM trucks around town and may have had Fidium personnel at your door trying to sign you up to their broadband services. Fidium is a subsidiary to Consolidated. You may remember that the town asked Consolidated to offer broadband in Vienna + they refused. That is primarily why we sought out another way to provide this service in Vienna. Fidium has now decided to offer broadband in Vienna but it will NOT be to ALL Vienna residents. They have chosen a couple of the most populated routes in town to run their lines. No doubt they will offer a competitive introductory offer, but they are a national big business and you will have no control on any future price increases.

The **Axiom** broadband service will be owned by the town and offered to everyone. Making money is not the primary intent, only to cover the costs of running the service successfully. We are committed to providing a superior level of service, locally controlled with fairness and transparency. By subscribing to Vienna's network, you are supporting a system that puts the needs of our entire community first. In contrast, choosing Fidium could jeopardize the success of our municipal network and risk leaving some of our neighbors without affordable broadband options.

Visit https://viennamaine.org/Broadband_committee for Frequently Asked Questions.

Call Axiom at 207-255-0679 to sign up.

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



Come enjoy breakfast with us at
The Community Café

Mt. Vernon Community Center
2 Main St., Mount Vernon, ME

Saturday, February 1st, 9-11am

*Donations to help maintain and operate the
Community Center are welcome.*



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The Mount Vernon Community Center
invites you to our annual



Saturday, March 15th

2 Main St., Mount Vernon Maine

9-11am breakfast (pizza-pie or quiche)

9-10:30am Pie Auction

Bid on an amazing pie or two (or more) to take home
with you. So many pies! Savory, sweet, gluten free,
and other options, there should be something for
everyone!

*All proceeds to benefit the Community Center operations and
maintenance fund.*