

Vienna Maine Newsletter

April/May 2025 Vol. 28 No. 2



Select Board Minutes

April 01, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, 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 #7 (\$27,180.46).
4. Reviewed and signed Vienna Broadband Warrant #14 (\$2,905.78).
5. Meeting adjourned.

April 08, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Charlie Baeder, and Tom Hale

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. The select board looked at map 8 lot 32. Jeff Peterson believed his land was landlocked however after looking at the tax map and discussion with him, it was decided it was not landlocked.

4. The select board contacted Brian Church. The Vienna Girl Scout Troop wanted to put in a flower garden at the fire station. It was agreed it would be a great idea. Thank you to the Vienna Girl Scout Troop!

5. Discussed and determined to table an insurance proposal from Broadband until additional information can be gathered.

6. The select board met with Charlie Baeder and discussed the different grants and bridge/culvert projects needed. The next Steering Committee will meet on April 22, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the Town House. The final designs should be finished by the end of the month and hopefully ready to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Charlie has found some FEMA grants that would cover 75% of each project. The Town will contact FEMA about mitigation money which was promised during the previous FEMA reimbursements but were not received.

7. Meeting adjourned.

April 15, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, 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 # 8 (\$33,520.81).

4. The select board updated the tree growth letters. They will be mailed to all applicants.

5. Meeting adjourned.

April 22, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Elizabeth Trehu, Lidie Robbins, Dan Goucher, Charlie Baederr, Mark Ouellette, Sue Burns, and Ed Lawless

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.

2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.

3. The select board met with the Culvert Steering Committee and discussed the priority of the roads. Discussion encompassed the environmental impact compared to the impact on residents affording the cost of each project. Several grants have been put on hold until 2026. There are 319 grants available with a 50% match while FEMA grants are available with a 25% match. If the Town receives any grants, the Town will have a special Town Meeting to raise the matching funds.

4. The select board voted to have an informational meeting to discuss the culvert and bridge projects on May 27, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Room..

5. The select board and Steering Committee will meet May 29, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

6. The select board met with Mark, from Axium, and Ed, from the Broadband Committee. CMP will finish the Make Ready by the end of the month while CCI will finish by the end of June. CAC would like to do a temporary connection while CCI finishes the Make Ready.

7. Meeting adjourned.

April 29, 2025

No Selectmen's meeting as it is the 5th Tuesday of the month.

May 6, 2025

Present: Jeff Rackliff, Kerry Casey, Ed Lawless, Lisa Goucher George G. Stewart, and Joanne Stewart

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant # 9 (\$48,659.97).
4. The select board talked with George G. Stewart and Joanne Stewart about the ditch at the end of their property.
5. Reviewed and signed Vienna Broadband Warrant #15 (\$64,000.00).
6. Lisa Goucher checked on the flags for the cemeteries as she and Jill Sampson would like to have the flags put out before May 21st. Flags have been ordered and are waiting to come in.
7. There are road concerns. They are soft in the springtime. It would help if the garbage trucks were off the roads during the March and April months. Dumpsters could be placed in different locations during those months. The first bulky pick up could be moved to the beginning of June.
8. The select board talked with Ed about Broadband progression.
9. A discussion was held concerning the need for a Health Officer.
10. Meeting adjourned.

May 13, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Beth Triehu, Charlie Baeder, Lidie Robbins, and Susan Burns.

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. The select board talked with the Culvert Steering Committee. The focus will be on grants for the Kimball Pond Road and the Tower Road for 2026. The committee will look for 'Bridge-in-a- Backpack' and steel framed bridges. The select board and the Culvert Steering Committee will have an informational meeting May 7, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Community Room.
4. The select board talked with a resident in regards to becoming the Town's Health Officer.
5. Meeting adjourned.

May 20, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, 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 # 10 (\$30,854.12).
4. The select board worked on Property card
5. Meeting adjourned.

May 27, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, and Laura Church

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. The select board worked on updating property cards.
4. The select board attended an informational meeting at the Community Room. The informational meeting was about grants and culvert/bridge projects that will need to take place over the next couple of years.
5. Meeting adjourned.

Planning Board Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE VIENNA
PLANNING BOARD HELD APRIL 23, 2025

At 6:25 PM regular members Waine Whittier, Creston Gaither, Tim Bickford, and Ed Lawless, along with alternate member Steve Trehu, met with Andy and Debby Coulombe on their Day Road property shown on tax map 3 as lot 32-K, to discuss their proposal to add a 4' x 16' deck on the easterly side of the existing cabin and to move an existing shed onto the southerly side of the existing clearing on the easterly side of Day Road, and to remove an existing outhouse.

These members then met at the Town House at 7:00 PM for the Board's regular meeting.

Steve was appointed a voting member in Alan Williams' absence. Minutes of the March 26 meeting were read and accepted.

The Coulombes' proposal was discussed. They provided a sketch based on their site evaluator's drawing. It appears that the proposed expansion, including the deck, will result in 746 square feet, this being less than the 1000 sf allowed by the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. The Board agreed that the project should be subject to these CONDITIONS:

- (a). any contractor for the project must be certified for work in Maine's Shoreland Zones.
 - (b). nothing can be placed closer than 25 feet from the pond at high water mark.
 - (c). Nothing is to be excavated except as required for septic tank replacement.
- The Board then concluded that, based on its on-site observations and the Coulombes' verbal representations, and subject to a review of the pertinent flood hazard map, this project:
- (1) Will maintain safe and healthful conditions;
 - (2) Will not result in water pollution, erosion, or sedimentation to surface waters;
 - (3) Will adequately provide for the disposal of all wastewater;
 - (4) Will not have an adverse impact on spawning grounds, fish, aquatic life, bird or other wildlife habitat;
 - (5) Will conserve shore cover and visual, as well as actual, points of access to

- inland waters;
- (6) Will protect archaeological and historic resources as designated in the comprehensive plan;
- (7) Will avoid problems associated with floodplain development and use; and
- (8) is in conformance with the provisions of Vienna's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, Section 15, Land Use Standards.

The Board then voted 5 – 0 to authorize Creston to issue a permit for this project. The Mercer Solar Energy Systems Ordinance of 2023 as Amended March 2025 was reviewed and discussed. Changes which would make it suitable for Vienna were discussed. After about an hour it was agreed that a solar energy systems ordinance for Vienna could not be made ready in time for the Board's May meeting as originally planned. The Board will continue work on an ordinance at future meetings. We may need the 180-day extension allowed in the recently enacted moratorium.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Creston Gaither, secretary

Broad Band Update #4

- ** The Central Broadband Office construction is complete. The backup power generator and heat pump have been installed.
- ** The contractors are currently installing fiber on Kimball Pond Road and the Mountain Road and all their side roads. They estimate being done with this area around July 15. When installation is complete, all subscribers will be operational....YEA!
- ** The Broadband Committee hesitates to give completion dates as so many unforeseen things have happened through this process to cause delays. However, at the risk of being wrong (again), the committee was told at their last meeting, the estimate for having all of Vienna operational is the fall, but experience shows this date changes frequently.
- ** We know some Vienna folks have signed up for Fidium due to all the delays in the broadband installation and the need for high speed for work. Having Vienna own the operation is a big deal that will benefit all who sign up for it. We know of some, and hope others will switch to Vienna Broadband when it is operational on their road.
- ** Those who have not signed up yet for Vienna Broadband, please remember if you do not sign up before the cable is installed on your road for free, you will have to pay \$300 (currently) to install the lines later on. Again, we can't thank you enough for all your patience through out this process. It will be worth it in the end.

“A library is a focal point, a sacred place to a community; and its sacredness is its accessibility, its publicness. It’s everybody’s place.” Ursula Le Guin

Our ongoing weekly & monthly activities:

1. Drop-in Tech Help with Remi, **each Wednesday 9AM – Noon**. If you have questions about using your device, or adding a program or app, or learning something new about your tech use, bring in your device and have a chat with Remi, she can help you move forward into the digital age!

2. Yarn Group Crafternoons, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month, from 1 – 3PM. Join this friendly, helpful group and work on any knitting, crocheting, or stitching project, learn a few skills, and maybe join in with them to help them knit blankets for those in need.

Upcoming Programs at the library:

1. Vegetable Gardening During Variable & Extreme Weather. Come hear **Caragh Fitzgerald** from the Cooperative Extension office in Farmington, speak on **Monday, June 16 at 4PM**, about keeping your vegetable garden productive in spite of cold spells, extreme heat, heavy rains, or drought. There are no magic answers, but she will discuss ideas that will help ensure that you can enjoy your delicious garden vegetables!

2. Author talk by Maine writer **Matt Cost** on **Sunday, June 22 at 2PM**. Matt came to be with us last summer for a great, informal talk and discussion about some of his mysteries and historical fiction. He has just released a new mystery, and will talk about that and his writing process. Join us for a nice, relaxed and friendly Sunday afternoon talk! His books have been popular with our readers.

3. Author talk by Maine wildlife biologist **Ron Joseph** on **Sunday, July 13 at 2PM**. Ron is the author of the memoir, Bald Eagles, Bear Cubs, and Hermit Bill: memories of a wildlife biologist, which our readers have enjoyed. Ron will have a slide presentation about his travels around Maine, the wildlife he has encountered along the way. Come listen to his stories of adventures and interactions with animals and people along the way!

4. Summer Children’s Programs will be scheduled for Wednesday afternoons at 4PM during the month of July. Alice is busy pulling together various activities and entertainment, and as soon as it is all confirmed, we will start posting about it on our Facebook page and in the weekly Events email.

Patrons can **reserve free passes** this summer to the **Botanical Gardens in Boothbay**, and to the **Maine Maritime Museum in Bath**. You can come in and reserve a day, or call or email us your request. We can only reserve a space for 1 group per day, so please let us know the day you plan to go, but also have an alternate day in mind, in case the date you hope for has already been taken. Please let us know whether you plan to attend in the morning or the afternoon, for the Botanical Gardens. We hope you enjoy this service! Both places have so much to explore!

How is **Book Bingo** going so far? We’ve had more people take the book bingo pages this year, and folks seem pretty dedicated to trying to fill in lines on the grid. We hear that folks are enjoying the chance to challenge themselves to read materials they don’t ordinarily choose. Each time you fill in a line (and then when you fill in the entire grid), you can fill in a “ticket” to enter your name for the raffle at the very end of 2025. Winners of the raffle will receive a gift card to a local business. Last year’s winners got a gift card from Scares and from The Apple Shed!

Birds, birds birds! This summer if you want to learn various bird calls, you can download the Merlin app on your phone, and use it when you are exploring outside. The app is <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/> It is from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, you can visit their website here: <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/>

I am just about to start a book new to our collection: The Last Whaler, by Cynthia Reeves. What are you reading as you plant your tomato and basil seedlings into the garden soil?

Vienna Union Hall Association

2025 Events

May 3 Boardman~Gawler~Muisse Trio
May 17 Ruth Hill
June 14 Katahdin Valley Boys
July 12 Pat Colwell and the Soul Sensations
July 24-26 Vienna Historical Society plays
Aug 1 Don Campbell Trio
Aug 8-11 Vienna Woods Players
Aug 16 Variety Show?? Not confirmed
Aug 23 Bearnstow Dance
Aug 29 Porch Party Mamas
Sept 27 Chase Winn & The Chicken Street Band
Oct 17 Pete Kilpatrick Band
Oct 25 Aztec Two-Step 2.0
Most shows @ 7:00 FMT Check Facebook or QR:

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 2096 POLLINATOR GARDEN



The girls of Troop 2096 worked hard to install a pollinator garden at the Vienna Fire Station, their meeting place. They dug out the existing sod, added compost, planted a mix of perennials and annuals, and mulched for weed control. Way to go girls!