

# Vienna Maine

# Newsletter

June/July 2025 Vol. 28 No. 3



## Select Board Minutes

June 3, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Kerry Casey, Charlie Baeder, and Josh Meader

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant # 11 (\$240,354.61).
4. The select board opened bids for both the winter roads and the off road plowing/shoveling contracts.

The town received one bid from Josh Markham for off road and one bid from Josh Meader for Winter Roads.

Off Road bid: \$9,248.00 for each of the first three years and \$9,988.00 for each of the next two years.

Josh Markham of Markham Enterprise;  
Winter Road Bid: 2025-2026 \$186,000.00  
2026-2027 \$191,812.50

2027-2028 \$197,625.00 from Josh Meader MEADER TRANSPORT & EXCAVATION

5. The select board talked to Charlie Baeder and signed grant applications for culvert bridge replacements.
6. Reviewed; Monday night Jeff, Jeanie, Laura and Nathaniel worked on and finished property cards, allowing for the tax commitment to be set.
7. The meeting adjourned.

June 10, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Ed Lawless, and Mark Ouellette

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.

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

3. The select board met with Ed Lawless, of the Vienna Broadband Committee, and Mark Ouellette, from Axiom. A discussion was held on the progress of the project. Consolidated Communication is working on Zone 4 this week and will start on zones 5-6-7 within the next couple of weeks after that.

4. The meeting adjourned.

June 17, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, David Castles, Kerry Casey, Peg Lang , Ron Geoff, and Stan Webster

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.

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

3. Reviewed and signed Warrant # 12 (\$39,437.43 ).

4. The select board talked with Peg Lang. She has concerns about tree limbs which had been knocked down on the Cumner Road. The Road Commissioner is looking into this.

5. Ron Geoff discussed the culvert on the Trask Road.

6. Stan Webster discussed his property taxes.

7. The town received a Thank You Note from the local girl scout troop.

8. The meeting adjourned.

June 24, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, David Castles, William G Miller, 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 received an email from Michelle Durocher about her concerns with the dumpster at the end of the Klir Beck Road overflowing. The dumpster has been overflowing for a week and she has concerns about animals and pests being brought into the area. Michelle recommended having the dumpster dumped weekly or have it removed to do away with the issue.

4. The Board reviewed an email from Carolyn in reference to her concerns about her taxes and requested the Board review her property card/taxes.

5. The selectmen received an email from Brook Sawyer, Map 7 lot 023-100, letting the town know they had removed a building from their property.

(Whenever you make adjustments like removing buildings on your property please let the selectboard know so they can remove it from your property card. The removal of a building will most likely decrease your tax assessment.)

6. Reviewed and signed Vienna Broadband Warrant #16 (\$99,458.00).

7. The meeting adjourned.

July 01, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, David Castles, Kerry Casey, Scott Landry, Tom Jewett, and Waine Whittier

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant # 13 (\$16,562.20).
4. The select board worked on property cards in preparation for the next tax season.
5. The Selectmen helped Scott Landry look for previous owners of his property.
6. The Vienna Broadband will have an informational meeting on July 15, 2025 at 6:00p.m. located at the Vienna Community Room. All are welcome.
7. The meeting adjourned.

July 08, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, David Castles, Scott & Melinda Laliberty, and Charlie Baeder

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. The select board talked with Scott and Melinda from River Side Disposal about moving the first bulky pick to being sooner in the year. It was agreed to move the 1st bulky pick to beginning-mid June. A discussion was held on putting a dumpster out during the spring season to help save roads from being traveled on by heavy trucks. A discussion about the dumpster at the end of the Ethel Gordon Road and the possible abuse of the use was held. It was determined that local residents are using it as intended.
4. A discussion was held with Charlie concerning the culvert grants and updating the cost on the grant application in order to cover the upfront cost the town has incurred.
5. The meeting adjourned.

July 15, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, David Castles, and Kerry Casey, Lisa Goucher

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant #14 (\$16,766.41).
4. The select board worked on property cards for the Kennebec Land Trust.
5. The select board appointed Elizabeth Trehu as the Town's Health officer.
6. Reviewed and signed Vienna Broadband Warrant #17 (\$202,256.20).
7. The meeting adjourned.

July 22, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, David Castles, and Jim Samuelson

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. The select board and Jim Samuelson discussed installing poles alongside the stream road to get power to his house. Jim is hiring IEC to install the poles alongside 1600' of the Stream Road.
4. The select board discussed the bulky pick up and how a couple of residents had more out then the cubic footage load.
5. Bob Grines finished "pick up" work at this time and will be finishing up the 2026 "pick up" work early Spring 2026.
6. The select board discussed accepting Elizabeth Trehu as the Town's Health Officer. She will be sworn in on August 12, 2025.
7. It was determined the selectmen's meeting time will be changed to begin at 6:00p.m. vs. 6:30p.m.
8. The meeting adjourned.

July 29, 2025

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

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE VIENNA PLANNING BOARD HELD JUNE 25, 2025

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

Recently issued permits were briefly reviewed.

The proposed Solar Energy Systems ordinance was reviewed and discussed in depth page by page. Wayne will prepare a draft of the ordinance amended to show tonight's edits and will forward it to the rest of the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.



Creston Gaither, secretary

# Broadband Update #5

Crews from AC Communications ([acctelcobiz.com](http://acctelcobiz.com)) have been working steadily in town to get the first broadband connections along the Kimball Pond Road installed. It is anticipated this will be completed by the end of July. They will then move on to other sections of town. There are some things you need to consider as you get closer to being hooked up:

1. The line drop. If your communication lines are on poles to your house, you have nothing to worry about. If your lines are buried, the fiber cable will be buried as well.

It requires a 1.5" – 2" PVC pipe for the cable. It is possible the cable will fit in your existing conduit, but if there isn't enough room, you will need to put in another conduit.

A third option is to dig a shallow trench and have the line go in the trench. The first step will be running the fiber drop to the exterior of your home. You do not need to be around for that. At a later date Axiom will contact you to schedule the interior work needed.

1. If your email is through Fairpoint, you will have to change your provider. Fairpoint will no longer be available to you. Here is information on that from the town website:

## Steps to Take When Changing Your Email Address

1. Notify Your Contacts: Send an email from your old address to friends, family, and colleagues informing them of your new email address. Include a clear subject line like "New Email Address Update."
  2. Update Online Accounts: Log in to all services tied to your old email (e.g., banking, social media, subscriptions) and update your email address in the account settings.
  3. Set Up Email Forwarding: If possible, configure your old email provider to forward messages to your new address temporarily. This catches anything you might miss during the switch.
- Backup Important Emails: Download or save critical emails from your old account, such as receipts, confirmations, or personal correspondence, before closing it.
  - Create a New Account: Sign up with a new email provider (see options below) and choose a professional, long-term address (e.g., [firstname.lastname@provider.com](mailto:firstname.lastname@provider.com)).
  - Test the New Email: Send a few test emails to ensure the new account works and that others can reply without issues.
  - Close or Archive the Old Account: Once you're confident the transition is complete, decide whether to delete the old account or keep it as an archive.

## Good Email Provider Options

- Gmail (Google): Free, widely used, with 15 GB of storage (shared with Google Drive) and excellent integration with apps like Calendar and Docs. [Visit Gmail](#)
- Outlook (Microsoft): Free, offers a clean interface, 15 GB of storage, and ties into Microsoft 365 tools, ideal for productivity-focused users. [Visit Outlook](#)
- ProtonMail: Privacy-focused, encrypted email with a free tier (1 GB storage) and paid plans for more features—great for security-conscious individuals. [Visit ProtonMail](#)
- Zoho Mail: Ad-free, affordable plans starting at \$1/month, with 5 GB storage and business-friendly features like custom domains. [Visit Zoho Mail](#)
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- iCloud Mail (Apple): Free with 5 GB storage for Apple users, simple to use, and integrates seamlessly with Apple devices. [Visit iCloud Mail](#)

#### Things to Prepare For in Advance

Time Commitment: Updating accounts and notifying contacts can take days or weeks, depending on how many services you use. Start early.

Two-Factor Authentication (2FA): Check which accounts use your old email for 2FA and update them to your new email or a phone number to avoid being locked out.

Subscription Overlaps: Some services send confirmation emails to both old and new addresses during the switch—monitor both inboxes for a while.

Storage Needs: Assess how much email storage you'll need with the new provider and choose accordingly (e.g., Gmail's 15 GB vs. ProtonMail's 1 GB free tier).

Professional Impact: If your email is tied to work or a business, inform clients and update marketing materials well ahead of time.

By following these steps and preparing thoughtfully, you'll minimize disruptions and make the switch to your new email address as seamless as possible.

The Dr. Shaw Library offers tech help every Wednesday from 9 -12pm. They are a great resource if you need additional help with this

- An option you will have once the fiber optic cable is installed, is to link your landline phone to it using VOIP(voice over internet). There are various options to consider all of which are explained on the [viennamaine.org](http://viennamaine.org) website here: [viennamaine.org/content/broadband/voip](http://viennamaine.org/content/broadband/voip)

SUMMARY: We are getting closer everyday to having broadband in every home that has asked for it. We can't thank you enough for your patience in this long process. When complete, it will be well worth the wait. There are still a number of free installation slots available if you haven't signed up yet. Once the project is done and the trucks leave Vienna there will be a \$299 installation fee to bring them back.

## Dr. Shaw Memorial Library

Summer hours July & August: Monday 2-6, Wednesday 9-1 & 3-7, Saturday 9-3

293-2565 [librarian@drshawlibrary.org](mailto:librarian@drshawlibrary.org)

"In principle and reality, libraries are life-enhancing palaces of wonder." Gail Honeyman.

### Our ongoing activities:

1. Drop-In Tech Help on Wednesday mornings 9-Noon
2. Yarn Group Crafternoons, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday afternoons 1-3pm
3. Book Bingo – work at your own speed and fill in whatever parts of the grid you can. We'll have a raffle at the end of the year for those who finished individual lines or the entire grid.
4. Story Walk – Thanks to Dana & Judy, our story walk meanders around the upper field behind the library. It will be up throughout the summer. Come read this beautiful, simple story, The Tree Farmer, as a quiet activity with your family. We are grateful to the Eleanor Philbrick Arts Fund for their support.
5. Our book sale is ongoing, on shelves near the main door, and upstairs in the Dolloff room. Come grab some reading materials for visiting family & friends, and for upta camp. All books are \$1.

We hope our young patrons are finding time for reading! They can keep track on their reading logs, & then give them to us at the end of July through August for a certificate for a treat from Scapes!

We do have a keyboard upstairs in the small meeting room. Please feel free to play a bit of music when you visit the library. We have some sheet music set up with it. There are headphones, if you just want to play for yourself, or you can play without them for a bit, as a treat for our patrons!

Upcoming Author reading & talk: We will have local (Winthrop) poet & fiction writer, Claire Hersom, with us on **Wednesday, August 20 at 4PM!** Claire has recently published her debut novel, Smithville Junction, and lots of libraries are asking her to come talk with their readers – we were lucky to get on her list! Claire will read from the novel, and tell us a bit about writing it. The novel is full of storytelling about the characters in small town rural Maine. Join us for a great talk!

Alice puts out a weekly **Events email** through our library email account. It lists any local activities/events that groups sponsor (community meals, muffin mornings, craft sales, etc). If you would like to receive this email and keep up to date about local activities, email or call us to give us your email, and we'll add you to the list! If you want to let us know of an upcoming program, email us and put the word Events in the subject line. Our email is: [librarian@drshawlibrary.org](mailto:librarian@drshawlibrary.org)

We can also sign you up to receive the email of the **Mt. Vernon town newsletter**, published each month. Let us know if you would like to receive it, and we'll contact the town office folks!

We still have openings in our schedule for our patrons to **sign up for passes** to either the **Botanical Gardens in Boothbay**, or to the **Maine Maritime Museum in Bath**. Contact us or come in and let us know when you would like to go, along with the number of people. Both places provide a beautiful place to visit. The Gardens of course give you a chance to wander outside, and the Museum has some spectacular exhibits.

I am reading Happy Land by Dolan Perkins-Valdez. What are you reading as you pick a few tomatoes & cukes, and stack firewood?

## **Kennebec Land Trust Dedication of Eaton Mountain Conservation Area – August 11**

The Kennebec Land Trust invites Vienna residents and visitors to join us on Sunday, August 11, for the dedication of the Eaton Mountain Conservation Area. The program begins at 4:00 pm with a short ceremony honoring June Roullard for her generous gift of this beautiful land. As June Roullard and Joe Baltar, longtime residents of Vienna, recently noted, *"We are grateful that the Kennebec Land Trust agreed to conserve this lovely hillside property in Vienna. We enjoyed it for many years and wanted to protect the woods and wildlife into the future, and to give more people the opportunity to experience the peacefulness and sense of connection with the natural world around us that we always felt there."* The dedication site is about a quarter mile from the parking area along a moderate uphill trail, with driving access available for those with mobility challenges.

At 4:15 pm, participants can choose between two guided hikes. The first is a short, relatively flat walk through the woods to the scenic Kimball Pond Stream, about a halfmile round trip. The second is a more strenuous option—a onemile roundtrip bushwhack climb to the Eaton Mountain Ridge—led by KLT Board member and geologist Lindsay Theis, KLT directors Jordan Bell and Tom Feerero, and Stewardship Manager Tyler Keniston.