

Vienna Maine Newsletter

August/September 2025 Vol. 28 No. 4



Select Board Minutes

August 5, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, David Castles, Kerry Casey, 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 #15 (\$100,906.75).
4. The select board fixed property card m6-84. Removed all buildings.
5. Provided copies of property cards by email to a realtor and an appraiser.
6. The meeting adjourned.

August 12, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, David Castles, and Trish Chaney

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Trish was given a copy of a septic design for a property she is listing.
4. The meeting adjourned.

August 19, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, David Castles, Kerry Casey, Elizabeth Trehu, and Jason Buzzell

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant #16 (\$161,781.10).
4. The select board talked with Stan Webster about the Franklin County Cemetary.
5. Reviewed and signed Vienna Broadband Warrant #18 (\$75,000.24).
6. The meeting adjourned.

August 26, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, David Castles, Kerry Casey, and Sean Bailey

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. The select board met with Mike Rogers to prepare for Wednesday, August 27, 2025, State Audit.
4. The select board worked on Homestead Exemptions.
5. The Select board met with Sean Bailey, Final Touch Carpentry, about repainting the front of the Town House and repairing two holes in the soffit area.
6. The meeting adjourned.

September 02, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, David Castles, Kerry Casey, Brian Lepage, Tina Lepage, and Scott Landry

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant #17 (\$77,919.11).
4. Chris signed CMP paperwork for Brian and Tina Lepage.
5. Reviewed and signed Vienna Broadband Warrant #19 (\$95,302.68).
6. The select board helped Scott Landry look into the ownership history of his property on the Stream Road.
7. The meeting adjourned.

September 9, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, David Castles, Kerry Casey, and Ron Goff.

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. The select board met with Ron Goff and discussed his concerns about the road sinking near the culvert on the Trask Road. The bottom of the culvert has rusted out and started to sink.
4. Reviewed and signed Vienna Broadband Warrant # 20 (\$15,194.50).
5. The meeting adjourned.

September 16, 2025

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, David Castles, Kerry Casey, Jim Anderberg, and Mark Ouellette

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant #18 (\$24,131.93).
4. The select board and the broadband committee will have a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 15, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. located at the Vienna Community Room. Food and beverages will be provided by Axiom Technologies. All are welcome and encouraged to attend to help celebrate this momentous occasion.
5. Reviewed and signed Vienna Broadband Warrant # 21 (\$165,655.50).
6. The meeting adjourned.

September 23, 2025

Present: Jeff Rackliff, David Castles, Wayne Whittier and Brian 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 organizing tax cards.
4. Brian informed the select board that the Fire Departments computer is acting up and will be serviced.
5. Wayne Whittier inquired about the town's CEO and LPI. The town has Erin Quimby appointed to both the positions.
6. Annie Tibbets inquired about a property card and abatements as the property owners had removed the house before April 1, 2025.
7. The meeting adjourned.

September 30, 2025

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



Official Ribbon Cutting of the Vienna Fiber Project

The Vienna Selectboard and Vienna Broadband Committee, Maine Connectivity Authority and Axiom Technologies invite all community members to join us for the Official Ribbon Cutting of the Vienna Fiber Project.

When: Wednesday, October 15th

Where: Fire Station Community Room- Kimball Pond Rd.

Time: 6:00pm- 7:30pm

Food and Beverage will be available

Come and enjoy some neighborly conversation about the accomplishment of the Community-Owned fiber network being built and now operational and hooking up customers!

Axiom will be on hand to answer any questions about internet service.

Maine Connectivity Authority, as our funding partner, will help us cut the ribbon, with local officials present to support this important milestone.

We look forward to seeing you!

Announcements From The Health Officer

Hello neighbors,

My name is Dr. Beth Trehu, and I am the new Health Officer for the towns of Mount Vernon and Vienna. My husband and I have had a camp on Flying Pond in Mount Vernon since 2010 and moved here full time in 2018. We now live in Vienna.

I plan to contribute to the town newsletters on a regular basis. This month I will describe the role of Local Health Officer, tell you a little about my background, and provide the latest guidance from Maine CDC on vaccines for this year's respiratory virus season.

If there are topics that you would like me to address in future newsletters, please contact me at health@viennamaine.org. I look forward to serving this wonderful community and welcome your questions and suggestions!

I will be speaking about vaccines at two upcoming Muffin Mornings:

□ Oct 27, 9:30-11 at the Mill Stream Grange in Vienna

□ Nov 3, 9:30-11 at the Mount Vernon Community Center

Local Health Officer

Every town in Maine is required by law to have a Local Health Officer (LHO). The LHO program is run by the Maine Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (MCDC) and forms a network across the state with the goal of improving and caring for the health of local communities. LHOs report to their Selectboards and often collaborate with the Selectboards, Code Enforcement Officers, and other town officials.

The LHO network can also respond in a rapid and coordinated manner in the case of a public health emergency. The MCDC provides on-going training for LHOs in issues that may be of importance to their communities, and I will share information when relevant. Maine law requires LHOs to report diseases, conditions, or public health threats believed to be of public health importance. A "public health threat" means any condition or behavior that can reasonably be expected to place others at significant risk of exposure to infection with a communicable disease.

Some of the primary responsibilities of the LHO are:

1. Notify MCDC regarding cases of communicable disease, particularly during declared health emergencies
2. Respond to complaints made by members of the public concerning conditions posing a potential public health threat
3. Order the suppression and removal of nuisances and conditions suspected of posing or found to pose a public health threat
4. Act as a resource for connecting residents with the public health services and resources provided by the Maine CDC
5. Enforce certain public health safety laws

My background

I am a recently retired physician and was board certified in Internal Medicine, Hematology (blood diseases), and Oncology (cancer). I was on the faculty of Tufts University School of Medicine, practiced in a Community Cancer Center, and spent the last 22 years of my career designing and conducting clinical trials of new cancer drugs in biotech companies. Before taking on the role of LHO, I completed an on-line training course required by MCDC.

Maine CDC Recommended Vaccines to Protect You Against Respiratory Viruses

There are three recommended vaccines to keep you as healthy as possible during the high season for respiratory viruses. Please see the summary provided here.

If you have questions about increased risk, please consult with your primary care provider. There are lots of great resources available on the Maine CDC website:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/diseases-conditions/immunization>

Until next time,

Beth Trehu, MD

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Influenza

Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine every season, ideally in September or October. Influenza vaccines may be co-administered with other vaccines.

☑ Age 6 months–8 years who have received fewer than 2 influenza vaccine doses, or whose influenza vaccination history is unknown: 2 doses, separated by at least 4 weeks.

☑ Age 6 months–8 years who have received at least 2 influenza vaccine doses: 1 dose.

☑ Age 9 years or older, including 65+ years: 1 dose.

RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus)

☑ Infants born October 1st through March 31st) should get an infant RSV antibody within one week after birth – ideally during the birth hospitalization.

☑ Throughout March, any eligible infant or young child who has not yet received a recommended dose should receive an infant RSV monoclonal antibody at the earliest opportunity.

☑ Infants born April through September and young children who are at increased risk for severe RSV disease and entering their second RSV season, the optimal timing for infant RSV antibody administration is shortly before the RSV season begins (e.g., October or November).

☑ Adults 75 or older years and adults 50 years old and older that have an increased risk of severe RSV disease: a single lifetime dose

☑ Pregnant women to get a single dose of RSV during weeks 32 – 36 of pregnancy during September through January

COVID-19

All eligible individuals should continue to receive routine COVID-19 vaccination as

follows. COVID-19 vaccines may be co-administered with other vaccines.

☑ All young children ages 6–23 months should get vaccinated against COVID-19.

☑ Certain children ages 2–18 years should get vaccinated with a single dose of age-appropriate 2025– 2026 COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of vaccination status, if they:

- o are at high risk of severe COVID-19,
- o are residents of long-term care facilities or other congregate settings,
- o have never been vaccinated, or

o have household contacts at high risk for severe COVID-19.

☑ Children not in one of the groups above, whose parent or guardian desires their protection from COVID-19, also should be offered a single dose of the updated vaccine.

☑ Adults 19-64 years should receive 1 dose of age appropriate 2025-2026 COVID-19 Vaccine

☑ Adults 65+ years should receive 2 doses of age appropriate 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine 6 months apart (minimum interval 2 months)

☑ Pregnant, recently pregnant, or lactating women should receive 1 dose of age appropriate COVID-19 2025-2026 vaccine

*Moderately or severely immunocompromised please discuss with your medical provider.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE VIENNA
PLANNING BOARD HELD AUGUST 27, 2025

At 6:30 PM regular members Wayne Whittier, Creston Gaither, Alan Williams, Ed Lawless and alternate member Steve Trehu met with contractor Jim Meader on the Harpine lot on Hunt Drive and on Flying Pond, shown on tax map 10 as lot 42-F, to consider the Harpines' proposal to rebuild an existing cabin and reconfigure its roof and to move it farther away from the pond.

At 7:10 PM said members convened the Board's regular meeting at the Town House; Steve was made a voting member in Tim Bickford's absence.

Minutes of the July 23 meeting were read and accepted.

Regarding the revised draft of the proposed Commercial Solar Energy Ordinance, MMA advised Wayne that they cannot do a full review of the ordinance. Wayne will ask them if we can legally substitute the title "solar officer" for "code enforcement officer" and whether our definition of "commercial" is sufficient. If we get answers to these questions Wayne will advise the selectmen that the Planning Board does not think we need a lawyer to review the ordinance. If we don't get answers we may need a legal review.

It was agreed that we will need a public hearing for ordinance enactment. The Board may want to make its October meeting a public hearing.

Michael Church appeared at 7:40 seeking a permit for his house. He has a site evaluation and was advised that he will need a SSWD permit from the plumbing inspector.

The Harpines' proposal was discussed. Shoreland Zoning Ordinance (SZO) Sect. 12.C.3 regarding relocation of structures was briefly reviewed; it appears to allow the relocation proposed. As no sleeping area is proposed for the cabin, plumbing is not an issue. Creston will send an email to Jim Meader regarding the required application, and will mention the need for photos and a site sketch and that SZO Sect. 12.C.1 says the cabin would have to be moved to at least 25 feet from the pond for any expansion of the footprint, and that no approval is granted at this point.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.



Creston Gaither, secretary

Announcement From The Town Clerk and Tax Collector

I will be closed November 20 to December 2 for vacation.

The November election is November 4, 2025 from 8AM to 8PM at the Vienna Community Center.
Absentee ballots will be available one month prior to election.

2026 Dog registrations are available as of October 15, 2025. They must be done by January 31, 2026
or a fee of \$25 will
be charged for late to license. Altered dogs are \$6 a year. Unaltered dogs are \$11 a year.

My hours are:
Tuesday 5p-7p
Wednesday 9a - 12p and 12:30p - 5p
Thursday 10a - 1p
Last Saturday of the month 9a - 12p

Thank you,
Annie Tibbetts
Vienna Town Clerk & Tax Collector