

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

To: The Residents of Vienna

From: The Board of Selectmen

Re: Town Meeting 2021

Greetings,

In order to be compliant with the current guidelines regarding COVID safety, we are finding it necessary to conduct our Annual Town Meeting in a different way this year. There will be no in-person meeting on the usual second Saturday of March. Instead, and after consultation with the Maine Municipal Association, things will proceed as follows:

1. The regular election WILL BE HELD on Friday, March 12, 2021 from noon to 8 p.m. at the Community Room on Kimball Pond Rd. Masking and social distancing will be required. Please wait in your car if it appears that the voting booths are full. We will be voting on elected positions as well as all articles usually enacted at town meeting.
2. There will be public hearing via Zoom with the Selectboard on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 7 p.m. for discussion, questions, and answers regarding articles for vote. A link to the Zoom hearing will be made available through both the town newsletter and website. The articles will be available to review prior to the hearing.
3. Absentee ballots will be available February 10, 2021 from the Town Clerk.

Please be patient with us as we navigate through this new situation. If you have questions, contact Chris Smith, 860-8574, Jeff Rackliff 491-1621 (evenings), or Laura Church 293-3892

Sincerely,

Town of Vienna Board of Selectmen

# Vienna Record



Volume 24, Issue 1

February/March 2021



Photo by Beverly Olson

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*Reminder: Vienna residents are welcome to visit the town salt shed and help themselves to two 5 gallon buckets of sand per household, per snowstorm.*

## Selectmen's Minutes

December 1, 2020

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Kirsten Heck

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant #23 (\$179,484.54).
4. A PDF file of the commitment book will be put on the town website.
5. The selectmen faxed requested property cards to a real-estate agent.
6. Meeting adjourned.

December 8, 2020

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. The Selectmen reviewed property cards.
4. The Selectmen inspected damage to the town office caused during a recent snow storm. The telephone wire was pulled away from the building. Consolidated Communication was contacted.
5. Meeting adjourned.

## Selectmen's Minutes (continued)

### December 15, 2020

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Dan Goucher, Kirsten Heck

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant #24 (\$32,124.04).
4. Dan presented updates on the current road work. Vienna had a wash out on the Davis Road. This project needed two culverts, ditching and digging up the road. The water is now diverted and should take care of any further issues.
5. The selectmen looked into when a septic was installed for a property in town.
6. The selectmen looked into the laws for burial in the town of Vienna.
7. The selectmen will look into why a discontinued county road has been blocked.
8. Meeting adjourned.

### December 22, 2020

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Laura Rose Day

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Laura Rose Day Discussed the Kennebec Highlands with the Selectmen.
4. Meeting adjourned.

### December 29, 2020

No Meeting: fifth Tuesday of the month

### January 5, 2021

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Brian Church, Kirsten Heck, Stan Webster

1. Reviewed and dispersed mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Reviewed and signed Warrant #25 (\$5,816.43).
4. Reviewed and signed Warrant #1 (\$84,239.39).
5. Vienna's Fire Department received a grant from the

Maine State Forestry. The grant is being used to purchase new pagers and foam for the truck.

6. The road commissioner has been busy repairing the damage to several of the town roads from the storm on Christmas. The Trask Road, Jesse Ladd Road, Stream Road, and Mountain Road all had wash outs.
7. The selectmen emailed copies of a tax map to a realtor.
8. The Select board answered questions from Stan Webster. He asked about tree growth rates and regulations.
9. Meeting adjourned.

### January 12, 2021

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Brian Church

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. The selectmen discussed the need for a new Treasurer. Kirsten has decided not to continue; however she will stay until the end of her appointment (March). The selectmen discussed speaking with Erin Norton. Erin is a treasurer for several other local towns.
4. Worked on the 2020 Town Report.
5. Meeting adjourned.

### January 19, 2021

Present: Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff, Laura Church, Kirsten Heck

1. Reviewed and dispersed the mail.
2. The selectmen read and accepted the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. Warrant # 2 (\$5,224.10).
4. Warrant #25 (\$46,831.60).
5. The Selectmen worked on the 2020 Town Report.
6. Meeting adjourned.

## Planning Board Minutes

### MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE VIENNA PLANNING BOARD

**October 28, 2020**

The meeting convened at the Town House at 7:00 PM. Regular members present were Waine Whittier, Creston Gaither, Alan Williams, Ed Lawless, and Tim Bickford. Minutes of the September 23 meeting were read and accepted.

Waine received an inquiry from a prospective buyer of land known as Tax Map 2 Lot 9, regarding any restrictions that may apply. It does not appear to be part of a subdivision or subject to any unusual restrictions. He will advise the inquirer in this regard.

Waine says Beverly Harpine has bought "Pincushion Island" on the northerly end of Flying Pond (see September minutes). This seems to have resolved her concerns.

It was agreed that given the Covid-19 situation, the Board is unlikely to ask the Town to approve any new ordinances at the upcoming Town Meeting. The possibility of a future ordinance regarding houseboats was generally discussed, as were setback requirements.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

**December 9, 2020**

The meeting convened at the Town House at 7:00 PM. Regular members present were Waine Whittier, Creston Gaither, Ed Lawless, and Tim Bickford. Selectman Laura Church was also present. Minutes of the October 28 meeting were read and accepted.

The Board discussed the recent issuance of a CMP "pole permit" for a parcel shown on Tax Map 6 as Lot 3. Creston agreed to ask Plumbing Inspector John Archard for details as to what is required in situations such as this involving recreational vehicles without a conventional septic system.

It was agreed that the Board has no further direct responsibility in this particular matter as it is an enforcement issue, but it was agreed that we should get more clarification of the pertinent rules in order to correctly administer the permitting requirements.

The Board will revert to its regular schedule (meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM) in January.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.



Creston Gaither, secretary

## Neighbors Driving Neighbors

Neighbors Driving Neighbors welcomes Misty Beck (pictured top) as their new Ride Coordinator. NDN is a non-profit organization providing rides for people in Belgrade, Fayette, Mt. Vernon, Rome and Vienna. Dr. Beck will be working part-time for NDN while continuing to teach at the University of Farmington. She comes with many years of volunteer leadership and community involvement.



Also, at their Annual Meeting in January, Mary Beth Paquette (pictured bottom) who has been NDN's Manager since March of 2019 has been promoted to Executive Director. Ms. Paquette's leadership and her focus on caring for others helps community members stay independent, safe, and connected to others.

Neighbors Driving Neighbors volunteers provide free transportation for adults for medical appointments, errands, exercise sessions, classes, shopping, socialization and volunteering. Currently, due to Covid restrictions, NDN is only able to provide pre-paid grocery and pharmacy pick-up and delivery, as well as food pantry delivery. Once NDN drivers are immunized, transportation services will re-open.



An on-line volunteer orientation will be held in February for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer driver.

Anyone needing assistance or wishing to become a volunteer driver, contact NDN at [neighborsdrivingneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:neighborsdrivingneighbors@gmail.com) or call 207-860-0677 for more information.

### Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area's Resale Shop is now open!!

The newly revamped Hospice Resale Shop is now open

Tuesday - Friday

10:00am - 2:00pm

304 Main St, Waterville

Clothes, kitchenware, small furniture, medical supplies & more

New items all the time

Proceeds from the shop go toward the many services provided by

Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area

Mt. Vernon & Vienna are part of the HVWA area.

*HVWA is a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization*

## From the Health Officer

### Polio Memories with COVID Implications

Dan Onion, MD, MPH  
Mt. Vernon/Vienna/Fayette Health Officer  
293-2076; dkonion@gmail.com

Maine's dramatically worsening COVID19 epidemic, and the public health interventions it has prompted, have reminded me of my childhood during the 1950s polio epidemics. Polio infections had been medically identifiable as a cause of summer epidemics in the US beginning in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century into which I was born. Polio became more rampant after World War II, so that by the early 1950s, thousands of mostly children and young adults were sickened, paralyzed and even dying each year.

I remember how frightened my parents were when my 4-year-old little brother got sick with headache and bad cold symptoms in August of what must have been 1953. On a house call I watched the local physician diagnosed him with polio, just as my parents had feared, given the raging epidemic filling the local hospital. Movie theaters, swimming holes and pools, and summer camps had been closed because of the disease. We kids were discouraged from playing with others. The papers published daily disease rates. My brother's fevers lasted several days in the hospital and a spinal tap showed "proof" it was polio. Now I realize that meant they found mostly lymphocytic white blood cells consistent with viral meningitis, and not the polymorphic white cell types of a bacterial meningitis. Other viral infections, we now know, can look the same, but in the midst of a known polio epidemic, if it walks and talks like polio, it's probably polio.

After being monitored for paralysis development that never appeared, he came home a week later. But we all knew a few kids and young adults in our community, who weren't so lucky. We also now know that many had the disease without knowing it, while others went on to need iron lung breathing support for weeks or months, and some of those suffered permanent partial paralysis and/or death.

Those were scary times, much like now. Why did it happen in the summer? How was it spread? Could you become infected from germs in the air, from flies, or from asymptomatic people? Towns sprayed the streets with DDT, futilely trying to kill presumed ambient virus, with unknown environmental and health consequences. Ironically, it turned out that the disease worsened as public hygiene, especially sewage management and water supplies, was improved. It is spread by the fecal/oral route, by the ingestion of water with even slight sewage contamination. The incubation period could be up to three weeks, which made where it came from harder to figure out. In the first half of the century, as communities stopped dumping sewage into rivers, fewer children caught it in their first year of life, when they still had the benefit of their mothers' own childhood-acquired polio antibodies, transferred to them through the placenta before birth. So, if children became infected before they were one, they'd have a very mild case and were immune when exposed again later in childhood or young adult years. The older they were before they met the virus, the sicker they would likely get.

People were desperate for protections to be developed and available. In early 1954, the first doses of Dr. Salk's killed vaccine were administered to children in selected towns across the country. That trial reduced the incidence of disease by 2/3, according to the early studies. The next year, lined up in the school gym by the same family doc who'd cared for my brother the year before, I recall getting my first of a three-shot series, one of the 4 million kids immunized in 1955. By 1956, most children and young adults had been immunized. No one was much worried about side effects and few were seen. A later live attenuated vaccine (Sabin) was used instead well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century because it could spread to the unimmunized and hence better cover a whole population. But it was eventually withdrawn after some of those indirectly vaccinated went on to develop polio symptoms from the vaccine itself; it has been replaced with the original Salk vaccine. Nowadays, the virus is found in only a few hot spots of the world where public health programs continue to try to eliminate it from the globe.

## From the Health Officer (continued)

All this is to say, we can't expect instantaneous results and normalcy by this spring or summer from the initial COVID vaccinations. The first two released vaccines now being disseminated, do appear to be very effective, but many people, by survey, have expressed reluctance to get vaccinated either on general principles or because it is "new" (which it actually isn't entirely, since the methodology has been used to treat several cancer types). And we don't yet know how long immunity will last, for years like the polio vaccine, or just months, as with influenza. Perhaps more likely, it will be like flu shots, since we're already seeing new reports of viral genetic changes having worsening clinical impacts. The process of diagnosing, developing vaccinations and treatments, and disseminating those methodologies is happening gratifyingly quickly right now. But the polio history predicts that handling the COVID pandemic adequately, to allow normal living again, will take years with many twists and turns.

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### Girl Scout Troop 2096 holds Flag Retirement Ceremony



On December 19, eight girls and four leaders from local Girl Scout Troop 2096 met to retire a collection of flags donated for this purpose. Earlier in the fall, girls placed collection boxes in the Vienna and Mount Vernon post offices for residents to donate flags no longer fit for service. Twenty flags of various sizes were donated, and the girls were thrilled to help meet a need in our community!

The experience prompted great questions about the Flag Code, and at the girls' request, the troop plans to learn how to fold the flag properly in an upcoming meeting.

A big Thank You to our neighbors for helping us with their donations!

## Mill Stream Grange



Vienna Selectman Laura Church (center) presents the Spirit of America award to Master Paul Lavender (r), representing Mill Stream Grange. Secretary Jill Sampson is at left.

The certificate reads in part: "The 2020 Vienna, Maine Spirit of America Foundation Tribute honors Mill Stream Grange for commendable community service." Mill Stream was nominated by a Committee of Past State Grange Masters who were impressed with its community service efforts, support of area education and the social role it plays in the Vienna/Mt. Vernon area.

For more information about Mill Stream Grange and its activities, call Paul Lavender at 293-4408.

## Editor's Notes

### Advertisements or Personal Announcements

1/8 Page	\$8.00/issue or \$45.00/year
1/4 Page	\$14.00/issue or \$45.00/year
1/2 Page	\$26.00/issue or \$150.00/year
Full Page	\$50.00/issue or \$290.00/year

Make checks payable to the "Town of Vienna"

### Deadline

Please submit all items or articles for the February/March issue of the *Vienna Record* by **January 25, 2021.**

### Format

Submit all items via email as a word document (.doc) or as a .jpg. Please no .pdf or other formats.

### Send us your photos!

We want your seasonal photos of Vienna! For consideration, please email photos to: [viennanewsletter@fairpoint.net](mailto:viennanewsletter@fairpoint.net)

**BARB'S**  
HANDPAINTED  
**SLATES, SAWS**  
& COLLECTIBLES




51 TOWN HOUSE RD.  
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TEL: 293-2271

Email: [gilmans2@fairpoint.net](mailto:gilmans2@fairpoint.net)  
Web: [barbshandpainted.craftah.com](http://barbshandpainted.craftah.com)

## Dr. Shaw Memorial Library News



“I don’t have to look far to find treasures.  
I discover them every time I visit a library.”

Michael Embry

We are open to 5 people at a time for brief visits on Wednesday afternoons 3-6PM, and Saturdays 10AM-3PM. We ask that all visitors wear masks and practice distancing. We also provide curbside service anytime we are at the library, even if we are not open (Mondays 3-5PM, and Wednesday mornings 9-12). Our patron computers are available for use, and we wipe down the keyboards after each patron has finished. Give us a call at 293-2565 or email us at [DrShaw@shaw.lib.me.us](mailto:DrShaw@shaw.lib.me.us) if you have any questions about access to the library.

We have received 71 new books through the Children’s Book Project grant award from the Pilcrow Foundation, and were selected to be sponsored through two additional awards, one from an anonymous donor, and another generous donation from Mr. Hal Berenson & Mrs. Laura Ackerman of Colorado. These new books are recently published fiction and nonfiction, and range from picture books to books for juvenile and young adult readers. The retail value of the grant was \$1,152.76. The grant required a two-to-one contribution, and our community contributed \$250. With that contribution and the Pilcrow Foundation \$500 match, we were able to select \$750 of new hardcover books. We are thankful for our Friends of the Library for setting up and maintaining a continuous book sale which went toward this contribution. We also want to thank the Eleanor Philbrick Trust for the Arts, which supplemented the effort. With so much learning happening at home this year, we hope families will take advantage of this wonderful collection of new books. The unexpected donation of 24 more books from the additional awards are all related to math & science. We’ll feature titles from this new collection on our Facebook page and website once we finish cataloging them. Please come check them out!

Our wonderful local AARP Tax Help guru David Fuller and one of his colleagues are once again accepting appointments for elders and low-income folks from the area who could use some help with filing their state and federal taxes. This year all appointments are on Tuesdays (February 16, March 2, and March 16) so that we don’t have too many people in the building at the same time. We still have some slots available, just call and leave a message for us and we’ll get back to you to schedule an appointment. Masks will be required when you come into the building, and we will set up spaces for social distancing.

We’ve been getting lots of book donations in recent months – thank you. Some of our patrons have been running up to the sale room in the Clayton Dolloff room to browse the shelves, and take home a good stack of reading matter. If you want to donate, it helps if you call ahead of time, and please don’t leave boxes or bags outside – we’ve lost some materials to weather damage. We appreciate nonfiction that is not too dated (and we can’t use encyclopedias or other series), and any books that are in good physical shape and not too old or musty. We hope to have a real booksale this summer, or at least next year! Meanwhile, feel free to come take a look and grab whatever looks promising! Hardcover and trade paperbacks are \$1.00, and mass market paperbacks are 50 cents.

## Dr. Shaw Memorial Library News (continued)

We've had more library patrons signing on to Hoopla, our subscription streaming service for audiobooks, ebooks, music, and TV shows & movies. Let us know if you want to sign up - it is a very easy process, you can view materials on your TV or laptop or phone, and all you need is an email address and the barcode number from your library card. We are happy to be able to provide this service, especially in the midst of winter and our time of sheltering at home and social distancing!

Some free online games to keep you amused and engaged during the winter months can be found at: <https://guideforseniors.com/blog/senior-online-games/> They link to online games from AARP, chess, jigsaw puzzles, word games, Sudoku, and more.

Sap season will soon be upon us!

To prepare, you can borrow a few books for various age groups:

- Tom Herd. *Maple Sugar: from sap to syrup the history, lore, and how-to behind this sweet treat.* 641.33HER

*Books for juvenile or middle readers:*

- *Sugaring season*, by Daine L. Burns J 664 BUR
- *Sugaring Time*, by Kathryn Lasky J 633.6 LAS
- *Ininatig's Gift of Sugar: traditional native sugarmaking*, by Laura Waterman Wittstock J 338.1 WIT

*Picture books:*

- *Curious George Makes Maple Syrup*, by CA Krones PB F REY
- *Sugaring*, by Jessie Haas PB F HAA
- *Maple Syrup From the Sugarhouse*, by Laurie Lazzaro Knowlton PB F KNO
- *The Sugaring-off Party*, by Jonathan London PB F LON
- *Thanks to the Animals*, by Allen Sockabasin PB F ME SOC

Our Yarn Cooperative group of knitters and crocheters still meets via zoom. If you want to join, please contact Amy Jajliardo via email at: [jjlrdomom@gmail.com](mailto:jjlrdomom@gmail.com)

## Community News

### Fire Department News

Vienna Fire Department, Inc. meets every Thursday at 6:30PM but the following Thursdays are specifically designated as written:

Business Meetings: 2nd Thursday of *every month*

Training: 3rd Thursday of *every month*

The Department is always looking for new members! If you are interested in joining the Vienna Fire Department, come down to the station on any Thursday evening to learn more.



### Recurring Community Events



\*Many of these recurring events are on hold until further notice. For more information, please reach out to the individuals listed below.

**Mt. Vernon Community Center Café** - Saturdays From 9:30-11:30 AM. Coffee, food and Conversation.

**Men's Breakfast** - Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 at the Mt. Vernon Community Center. Small donation appreciated.

**Women's Breakfast "JULIET"** - Third Tuesday of each month at the Mill Stream Grange 8-9 AM. Pot luck breakfast plus \$2.00 per person.

**Creation Station** - Faith-based, arts-based after school program of the North Vienna UMC. Meets Thursday during the school year. Open to all children grades K-6. For more information call Laura Church at 293-3892.



**The Youth Group at North Vienna United Methodist Church** - Most Sunday afternoons during the school year. Open to youth grades 6 and up. For more information call Laura Church 293-3892.

**Vienna Union Hall Association** - Second Wednesday of each month. 7:00 at the Vienna Community Center (Nov.- March.) at the Union Hall (April - Oct.) Welcome new members.

To submit a recurring event for future inclusion, please email details to [viennanewsletter@fairpoint.net](mailto:viennanewsletter@fairpoint.net)

## TOWN OF VIENNA

### Town of Vienna Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor -

Laura Church, Chris Smith, Jeff Rackliff

**Treasurer** - Kirsten Heck

**Town Clerk and Tax Collector** - Annie Tibbetts

**Road Commissioner** - Dan Goucher

**Fire Chief and Warden** - Brian Church

**Health Officer** - Daniel K. Onion

**Animal Control Officer** - Donald Tibbetts

**Code Enforcement Officer** - Matthew Drost

**Plumbing Inspector** - John Archard

**Alternate Plumbing Inspector** - Gary Fuller

**Addressing Officer** - Tim Bickford

**RSU#9 Representative** - Josh Robbins



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### Office of the Selectmen

Vienna Town House

P.O. Box 38

212 Townhouse Road

Vienna, ME 04360

