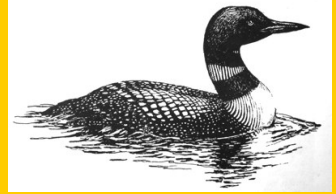


# Town of Mount Vernon Community Newsletter



www.mtvernonme.org

November 2021 Edition Rev 1

## TOWN OFFICE STAFF

### Town Office

Phone: 293-2379  
Fax: 293-3507  
[clerk@mtvernonme.org](mailto:clerk@mtvernonme.org)  
Mon 8am-6pm  
Tue, Wed, & Thu 7am-3pm  
Fri, Sat & Sun - Closed

### Town Clerk & Tax Collector

Heather Wheeler @ 293-2379  
[clerk@mtvernonme.org](mailto:clerk@mtvernonme.org)

### Deputy Clerk

Rachel Meader @ 293-2379  
[deputyclerk@mtvernonme.org](mailto:deputyclerk@mtvernonme.org)

### Treasurer

Kerry Casey @ 293-2379  
[treasurer@mtvernonme.org](mailto:treasurer@mtvernonme.org)  
Mon 10-12, Wed 10-11:45

### Select Board

[selectboard@mtvernonme.org](mailto:selectboard@mtvernonme.org)

Anna Libby @ 951-2385  
[anna@mtvernonme.org](mailto:anna@mtvernonme.org)

Paul Crockett @ 293-3000  
[paul@mtvernonme.org](mailto:paul@mtvernonme.org)

Bob Grenier @ 293-2783  
[bob@mtvernonme.org](mailto:bob@mtvernonme.org)

### Select Board Admin. Assistant

Alice Counts @ 293-1105  
Cell @ 714-403-6076  
[alice@mtvernonme.org](mailto:alice@mtvernonme.org)  
Mon, Tue & Wed 7am-3pm

**Select Board Meetings are held every other Monday at the Town Office @ 1997 North Road**

Warrant @ 6:30 pm  
Regular Town Business @ 7:00pm

**Planning Board Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Community Center @ 9 Main Street**

## TOWN DEPARTMENT STAFF

### Animal Control Officer

Trish Davis @ 491-0410

### Cemetery Sexton

Bob Grenier @ 293-2783  
[bob@mtvernonme.org](mailto:bob@mtvernonme.org)

### Code Enforcement Officer and Plumbing Inspector

Bill Butler Work: @ 293-2636  
Cell: 446-6541  
[mtvernonceo@gmail.com](mailto:mtvernonceo@gmail.com)  
Tuesdays 8am-4pm

### Fire Chief

Jason Beckler @ 293-2114  
(non-emergencies)

### General Assistance

Anna Libby @ 951-2385  
[anna@mtvernonme.org](mailto:anna@mtvernonme.org)

### Health Officer

Daniel K. Onion @ 293-2076

### Rescue Director

Pat Rawson @ 293-2597  
(non-emergencies)

### Road Commissioner

Lee Dunn @ 242-5828

### Tax Assessor

Roger Peppard @ 293-1105  
3rd Thursday of each month  
[assessor@mtvernonme.org](mailto:assessor@mtvernonme.org)

### Transfer Station

Megan Goucher @ 213-3523  
Sat & Sun 8:30 am - Noon  
**May 1st thru September 30th open on Wednesdays from 3-6pm**

### **Dr. Shaw Memorial Library 293-2565**

Website: [drshawlibrary.org](http://drshawlibrary.org)  
Email: [librarian@drshawlibrary.org](mailto:librarian@drshawlibrary.org)

Mon 3pm-6pm,  
Wed 9am-12pm & 3pm-7pm  
Sat 10am-3pm

*Masks Required.  
Curbside always available.  
Call or email us in advance.*

### **Mt. Vernon Post Office Hours Retail Window**

Mon-Fri 7am-10am, 11am-2pm  
Sat 9am-11am

### **Newsletter**

All articles to be submitted by 25th of each month to

***alice@mtvernonme.org***

### **Paid Business Advertisements**

- ◇ Business Card Size \$15/month
- ◇ 1/4 page \$25/month
- ◇ 1/2 page \$45/month
- ◇ Full page \$90/month

## **Select Board Meeting is now live:**

You can find the link on MtVernonME.org under Government.

Scroll down to the bottom or click on this link

[Mount Vernon, Maine LIVE](#)

## **November Dates to Remember:**

**Select Board Meetings: 11-08-21, 11-22-21 in the Town Hall at 7:00pm**

**Ridge Riders Snow Mobile Club Meeting: 11-09-21**

**Safety Committee Meeting: 11-10-21**

**Travis Mills Planning Board Site Visit: 11-14-21 8:30am to view the proposed new parking lot**

**Planning Board Meeting: 11-16-21 in the Community Center at 7:00pm**

**Tax Assessor is in town: 11-18-21—Make your appointment early at 293-2379**

## **December Dates to Remember:**

**Select Board Meetings: 12-06-21, 12-20-21 in the Town Hall at 7:00pm**

**Ridge Riders Snow Mobile Club Meeting: 12-07-21 in the Community Center at 7:00pm**

**Planning Board Meeting: 12-21-21 in the Community Center at 7:00pm**

**Tax Assessor is in town: 12-16-21—Make your appointment early at 293-2379**

**If you have something going on and want to post on this Town meeting page, please contact Alice Counts at 207-293-1105 or 714-403-6076**

## **Land Use Ordinance**

This ordinance is being reformatted, updated and in the review process. The new format will include an index, a list of tables and hot links to all references for easier accessibility.

## **Safety Inspections**

Thanks to all for keeping up on the monthly safety self-inspections which benefits the entire town in keeping all of us plus reducing our insurance premiums?

## Mount Vernon needs your help!

**Neighbors Driving Neighbors (NDN):** is recruiting an Executive Director to start by the end of this year. If interested, please call NDN at (207) 860-0677.

**Transfer Station:** Looking for a year round person for Attendant to cover these hours: Sat & Sun 8:30 am – Noon;  
*May 1st thru Sep30th Wednesdays 3-6pm*

**Travis Mills Foundation:** Looking for volunteers! <https://travismillsfoundation.org>

We have several Committees, Boards and Positions that are looking for volunteers. Please come and join us. You can contact Alice Counts at 207-293-1105, 714-403-6076 or [Alice@mtVernonME.org](mailto:Alice@mtVernonME.org) for more information.

**Athletic Committee** is looking for the following:

**Soccer commissioner** - helps the Athletic Director plan the soccer season and meets with the other towns to plan the season which starts September 11, 2021

**Baseball commissioner-** helps the director plan the baseball season and meet with the other towns.

**Softball commissioner-** helps the director plan the softball season and meet with the other town.

**Other Volunteers** - help with the Athletic Director and Commissioners

We start planning for baseball/softball in February. We start the field work once the snow melts and the fields are dry enough to get gravel delivered.

### Typical responsibilities:

- Helping collect registrations and importing registrations into a spreadsheet that is shared with other towns
- Helping plan volunteer days for clean up of the fields
- Helping get student refs for games
- Most communication is via email with typically one meeting in person per sports season.
- This is the link to our athletic committee page [www.facebook.com/groups/185652524949106/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/185652524949106/)

### Broadband Committee

We're looking for someone who will work with our committee to:

- Find the best broadband solution for all of Mt. Vernon
- Attend committee meetings, usually once or twice per month
- Undertake tasks to help the committee communicate findings and alternatives to the town

### Minnehonk Ridge Riders Snow Mobile Club

Next Meeting: Tuesday 11-09-2021

If you are using any of the Mount Vernon Winter Trails, you have the Ridge Riders to thank. They maintain 12 bridges and 28 miles of trails. Please contribute to this club with your donations and memberships in order to keep our trails safe and clear. These trails are using for snow mobile riders and cross-country skiers. Everyone is invited to our monthly meetings which are normally on the first Tuesday of every month at 700pm in the Community Center.

Membership fees are \$20/yr per individual or \$30/yr per family. Payable at the Town Hall. See Alice Counts.

Cash or Checks made payable to Minnehonk Ridge Riders.

President: John Karabin 207-480-0034

## **Mount Vernon needs your help! (Cont.)**

### **Emergency Manager**

Maine's Local Emergency Management Directors coordinate local response and recovery when more than one department is responding to a community emergency. This is usually accomplished in two ways: through the development of local disaster plans and mutual aid agreements and the establishment of an Emergency Operations Center. The local director does not replace or direct the police, fire, ambulance, or American Red Cross; he or she helps them work together in an emergency.

The Local Emergency Management Director also acts as a liaison to County Emergency Management. They can look to the County for technical assistance and training, and emergency access to needed resources, from neighboring communities, the State or the federal government.

Local Emergency Management offices vary widely depending on the hazards present, the size of the town and available funding. Most municipal Emergency Management programs have one person and little to no budget. However, the responsibility for the community does not go away just because the town is small.

When your community is struck by a hazardous materials spill, hurricane, ice storm, forest fire, flood, tornado or other type of disaster event, your municipal Emergency Management Director will step into action to manage the disaster.

Contact Alice Counts for further information at the Town Hall.

### **Budget Committee**

The Town of Mount Vernon budget committee is currently comprised of four individuals. This committee serves in an advisory capacity to the selectmen. Our task is to explore thoughts and ideas that may improve the efficiency and effectiveness of town operations.

We meet most often during the months of late February through May - generally biweekly. We communicate as information is discovered between meetings during that time. The hope of this committee is to be more informed during the rest of the year through quarterly budget updates provided by town employees and officials. New members are always welcome and I would be happy to provide information and answer any questions. Please understand, the town budget is not just about numbers. This committee uses history, experience and common sense (in addition to spreadsheets :)) to make recommendations that help Mount Vernon avoid complacency and keep us moving in a forward and positive direction.

be the lead figure in the response and recovery efforts. And before a disaster event occurs, your local Emergency Management Director will be busy behind the scenes working on disaster plans, attending meetings, organizing training and exercises for your public safety departments and providing public information on disaster preparedness.

### **Handicap Equipment Available for loan AT NO CHARGE to Mount Vernon Residents:**

#### **Have friends visiting from out of state, have a temporary or long term need?**

Mt. Vernon Rescue has a supply of hospital/rehab equipment for anyone to use at no charge. We have a hospital bed, wheel chairs, walkers, commodes, canes, crutches and shower seats. If you have need for any of these, call Pat Rawson, 293-2597 or Leslie Grenier at 293-2783 or Alice Counts (Admin Asst) at office: 207-293-1105, cell: 714-403-6076, Alice@mtVernonME.org

We ask that you keep these loaner items in the Town of Mount Vernon and return them to the Mt Vernon Rescue when you no longer have the need for them so we can loan them out to the next person.

**We are looking to add to our Volunteer staff. If you know of anyone that might be interested, please share. Mount Vernon would cease to exist without our Volunteer help and support!**

## From the Mount Vernon Select Board

Greetings friends and neighbors.

Your humble (temporarily) two-person select board and supporting staff have been very busy doing the people's business lately. We are, however looking forward to getting back to full strength as of November 3, the day after the election. I will stick to the long-standing sense of style, tradition, and ethics and not mention any names, but you will find one well-qualified candidate on the Nov 2 ballot.

There has been continuing activity, if not disruptions from the "flood" at town hall. But, as of this writing, we have a brand-new commercial glue-down vinyl plank floor installed in town hall. I want to thank the entire office staff, particularly Alice and Kerry for all the work they did on this project. We had a lot of details to coordinate such as getting movers to move EVERYTHING, getting a port-a-potty for when the toilet was removed, coordinating with the installers, and moving literally everything out. We acknowledge the disruption this has caused and look forward to getting back to normal.

I want to point out a few things that you may notice in the select board minutes. The town is due to receive a large sum of money from the ARPA program (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021). This Federal grant is specifically intended for infrastructure and includes improvements to broadband Internet infrastructure as one of the suggested and allowable ways to allocate this money. The select board has not yet made any decisions on how the town will spend this money, but we have a very engaged broadband committee who have been doing excellent groundwork to help plan for improvements. This ARPA money is just one of several State and Federal grant sources for broadband improvements. There are quite a few roads here in town that do not currently have access to broadband speed Internet (DSL is not considered "broadband", by the way). We know many people are now working and schooling from home and would love to get "real" broadband Internet.

Additionally, we are looking into the replacement of the Blake Hill Road bridge. As you may know this is a State-owned bridge that the State is intending to fully close within in the next 12-18 months. We are working up estimates for the replacement of this bridge and may also consider using some of the ARPA funding for this project. Fortunately, the State has offered to pay 60% of the replacement costs. But it is a rather expensive project.

I want to thank two very special people who are "retiring" from town employment. Nancy Dunn has been cleaning the town hall, library and community center for, gosh, I don't know HOW long. But thank you Nancy for your many years of service! Carole "The Dump Lady" O'Connell has been managing the transfer station for some years now. She has been rock solid reliable and we thank her for her service. It is not yet clear if Carole will be handing the "Dump Lady" moniker off to the new transfer station manager, Megan Goucher. 😊

On a related note, we are still looking for another transfer station assistant.

On behalf of the Mount Vernon Select Board,

Paul Crockett - Chairman

## **The Mount Vernon/Vienna Giving Tree**

Corona Virus Year 2

In the midst of the continuing pandemic, there will be a Giving Tree this year and there will be trees around Mt. Vernon and Vienna (Flying Pond Variety store, Dr. Shaw Library, both post offices). Similar to 2020, things will be different. There will be family requests for fuel (Berry Fuel) or groceries but Santa's Elves have decided to request only cash or checks for gifts for children. The elves will take these donations and purchase gift cards for parents to buy gifts for their children. This will give parents control over what their children will receive from Santa. In order to give parents time to shop, Santa is requesting that your contributions be dropped at Flying Pond Variety by December 1. Checks can be made out to Mt. Vernon Rescue Company and left at Flying Pond Variety or mailed to 970 Pond Road, Mt. Vernon, ME 04352. If you have any questions, feel free to contact elf Pat at 293-2597, call/text at 500-3306 or elf Leslie at 293-2783, call/text at 620-6448

# IMAGINE

# PEOPLE

# HERE!



**BICYCLE  
COALITION  
OF MAINE**



# L.L.Bean

The Town of Mount Vernon, in partnership with the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, L.L. Bean, and the AARP, installed traffic calming treatments on Diamond Street, including a crosswalk and advisory lanes, to slow down traffic and improve pedestrian access on the roadway.

Please share some thoughts about the project by using the QR Code or link below.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MountVernon2021>

## Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting of 10-11-21

**Board Members Present:** Paul Crockett (Chair), Anna Libby

**Support Staff & Guests:** Alice Counts (Administrative Assistant), Mark Gilbert (Ch 7), Kerry Casey (Treasurer), Ron Lockwood (Ch 7), June Cauldwell (Community Center Chair, Safety Committee Chair), Greg Cauldwell (Planning Board Chair), Tom Ward (Aging in Place -Chair), Pat Rawson (Rescue Dir), David Sanders (Town Lawyer)

**Guests Present via Zoom:** Bill Rosenberg, Chuck Wright, Ken Elliot, Carl Rogers

**Select Board Members Signed Weekly Warrant (6:30-7:00)**

### Meeting Called to Order

SB Meeting was Called to Order by SB Crockett at 7:00pm

### Meeting Minutes of 09-27-21

Motion by SB Libby to accept the meeting minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by SB Crockett. Motion Carried. Vote was 2-0.

### Aging In Place

Tom Ward spoke about Senior Housing Plan for an AARP community. Plan has been accepted  
\$1k micro grant for AARP Lifelong Communities Fellow, Bob McIntire to support his continued work.  
CPC to develop feasibility analysis study over the next 6-8 months.

### Broadband Committee Update

Bill Rosenberg, Chuck Wright, Carl Rogers and Ken Elliot attended the meeting via Zoom to give update on Broadband.

The current Broadband budget is \$2650.

Two major changes

the coalition consultant is willing but uncomfortable to proceed without Select Board commitment.

RFP will be no more than \$5k, so need \$2350 from the ARPA funds.

Coalition is moving ahead without Mt Vernon. Since groups are favored over individual towns, Bill thinks minor accommodations can be made to be included in the Coalition.

Fayette and Vienna have no internet or cable currently whereas 2/3 Mt Vernon have great access.

Need to incorporate a diversity of towns in RFP.

Motion by SB Crockett to allocate an additional \$4k to Broadband Committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by SB Libby. Motion Carried, Vote was 2-0. **PASS.**

### Road Commissioner

#### Discussion for long range plan for road improvements.

MMA Local Road Guide designates that all the roads in Mt Vernon are 3 Rod Roads (49-1/2 width)

Looking at widening the following roads to meet this guide:

Desert Pond Road

Moor Hill Road

Ithiel Gordon Road

Need to take into consideration the road that have stone walls. Road may need to go around them so as not to damage them.



## **Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 10-11-21 (Cont.)**

### **Culvert Repair/Replacement on Bean Road**

Alice Counts and Maureen Brescia both spoke regarding a culvert between their two properties that appears to either be clogged or crimped and no longer allows water to flow causing a backup on their properties. LK Dunn to take a look at this.

Alice Counts also mentioned the Great Job that LK Dunn did by clearing and eliminating the Blind Corner on Bean. It was discovered that the culvert flowing from that corner to Mooar Hill Road was crimped and missing the bottom. This will go on the to be done work order.

### **Salt Bids**

Morton at 72.10

Harcos at 78.50

New England at 65.00

Motion by SB Crockett to accept New England Salt bid of 65.00/ton, 2<sup>nd</sup> by SB Libby. Motion Carried, Vote was 2-0. **PASS**

### **Planning Board Appointment**

Motion by SB Libby to Appoint David Sanders to the Planning Board Alternate position, 2<sup>nd</sup> by SB Crockett. Motion Carried, Vote was 2-0. **PASS.**

### **ARPA Funds**

The first allotment which is half of \$178,000 has not arrived yet.

### **Reviewed Flooring Bids and Selected Flooring Company**

Bid Received from the following companies

Mattson Flooring

Flooring Systems

Hammond Lumber

Motion by SB Crockett to accept the Mattson LVP bid, 2<sup>nd</sup> by SB Libby. Motion Carried, Vote was 2-0. **PASS**

The Smith Cemetery Hazard Tree is scheduled to be removed next week.

### **CMP LED Street Light Conversion Program. Discuss and Sign Contract**

SB Crockett decided to accept the inventory list submitted by CMP.

Motion by SB Libby to have SB Crockett sign the CMP Agreement to upgrade all Street Lights the Town leases from them. This contract is for 15 years.

### **Consider waiving the Petition requirement for the five (5) non-profits the town contributes to annually, again this year due to Covid concerns**

The Five (5) Non-Profits are:

Family Violence

Sexual Assault

30 Mile River Watershed

Spectrum Generation

Hospice Volunteers

Motion by SB Libby to waive petition requirement for the listed non-profits, 2<sup>nd</sup> by SB Crockett. Motion Carried, Vote was 2-0. **PASS**

## Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 10-11-21 (Cont.)

### Other Business

Bridge and Paving updates

Lee Dunn is waiting on Pike Industries to Pave Bean Road

E911 Updates, Map Updates

Bob Grenier stated that the Town budgeted for this expense. SB Crockett stated there are plans to have this done this winter. Pat Rawson requested an updated hard copy map for rescue. Bob Grenier stated the hard copies are no longer available. Need to check into the possibility of getting a printed copy for Rescue.

TRIO meeting update

SB Crockett tabled this until next meeting

Code Enforcement Status

Alice Counts asked whether we need to submit this information yearly to the state as was done in previous years. Alice to call the state and verify.

Revize Website update

Alice Counts asked if there was any movement on getting a new Town Website. SB Crockett said he thought it was a good idea but that it needed to wait for the Town Meeting in June.

Alice Counts asked for more information regarding the following

MEMA Mass Care Shelter Training

Emergency Manager/Director – need a job description for this volunteer position. June Cauldwell mentioned that possibly David Bryant with “the Ancient Ones” may be of help in finding someone to fill this position. This director would have authority to manage after 3+ days without power.

Hazard Mitigation Funding that was due 9-15-21

Overseers of the Athletic Committee – now defunct

Freedom of Information Access (FOIA)

Civil Ground Patrol – Floated idea of having teens volunteer to run errands on their snowmobiles for people snowed in or in need of services such as having meds, food, formula, essential items, etc. This could possibly be under the direction of the Emergency Manager/Director.

Transfer Station Job Description – SB Libby has formatted a job description however there have been no applicants yet.

Motion by SB Crockett to accept new Job Description, 2<sup>nd</sup> by SB Libby, Motion Carried, Vote was 2-0.

**PASS**

Complaints

Questions concerning who to contact regarding dumping of construction materials on individual property.

### Motion to go to Executive Session

Motion by SB Crockett to go to Executive Session , 2<sup>nd</sup> by SB Libby at 8:25pm. Motion Carried, Vote was 2-0.

**PASS**

### Executive Session

### Motion to Adjourn

## Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 10-25-21

**Board Members Present:** Paul Crockett (Chair), Anna Libby

**Support Staff & Guests:** Alice Counts (Administrative Assistant), Mark Gilbert (Ch 7), Kerry Casey (Treasurer), Ron Lockwood (Ch 7), June Cauldwell (Community Center Chair, Safety Committee Chair), Bob Grenier (Cemetery Sexton)

**Select Board Members Signed Weekly Warrant (6:30-7:00)**

### Meeting Called to Order

SB Meeting was Called to Order by SB Crockett at 7:00pm

### Meeting Minutes of 10-11-21

Motion by SB Libby to accept the meeting minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by SB Crockett. Motion Carried. Vote was 2-0.

### No Smoking Policy

Alice Counts discovered a grant for \$350 provided the Town could prove they have a No Smoking policy.

Alice Counts Created a Policy Manual containing all of the Previous Town Policies. Select Board needs to sign for the Grant.

Tabled until the select board could further review.

### Community Center

Performed a thorough Spring Cleaning

June Cauldwell, Community Center Chair, thought the agreement with the Town was that the Community Center would be responsible for maintenance and the Town would pay for all utilities. The Trustees are requesting a written letter.

Community Center was accepted in 1993 via fund raising, but there was nothing written. This was a project of Karen Stevens. Fred Webber decommissioned building noted in the Town Meeting of 1993.

### Oldest Citizen

Marjorie Jacobs passed away last week.

Dorothy Kent is now the oldest citizen, born in 1925, aged 91 years.

Boston Post Cane went missing a few years back

Norma makes canes, plaque

Need an award template

### Resignation

Town Hall, Library and Community Center House cleaner, Nancy Dunn, has resigned after 30+ years

## **Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 10-25-21 (Cont.)**

### **Status check on the following:**

Insurance claim for "flood" – All expenses have been paid and Reimbursement has been submitted by Kerry Casey, Treasurer to the insurance company for all but the flooring and moving expenses

ARPA funds – Latest Date for receiving the first half of these funds is a week to 10 days.

Emergency Manager – A few possible candidates have been identified: Tom Brady, Patti, Mike Wenzel

LUO Updates- Alice Counts Submitted a Draft copy to the select board, planning board Chair, Sue Herman for review.

Maps updates with owner info – Alice Counts has started this project.

Trio – Paul is collecting data pros/cons and will talk with Harris employees within the next few weeks. He has spoken with the following towns:

Belgrade, Fayette and Readfield.

## SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATION PRICE INCREASE

Dear Registration Agent,

Snowmobile season will soon be upon us! You should receive your stickers soon. Included with your stickers was a letter with important information regarding the price increase for snowmobile registrations. **I am sending this email as a reminder to you that this price change is effective October 18th, 2021.**

If you are not a registration agent, you may disregard this email. If you are, please note that the prices in MOSES will be updated automatically starting on October 18th, 2021.

**These new prices are as follows:**

Resident Snow (new or renewal)	\$55.00
Non Resident Snow 3-Day	\$74.00
Non Resident Snow 10-Day	\$99.00
Non Resident Season	\$119.00

As always, if you have any questions, please call the MOSES Hotline. We are fully staffed Monday - Friday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

**Thank you,**

**Angie Vo**

**MOSES Supervisor**

**Management Analyst 1**

Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
Licensing and Registration Division

## ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COVID19 BOOSTERS, ALMOST!

Dan Onion, MD, MPH  
Mt. Vernon/Vienna Health Officer  
293-2076; dkonion@gmail.com  
November, 2021

Here we are almost 10 months into 2021, our Covid immunization year, and we are hearing and talking about booster shots! Why? It is because research is showing that all 3 available vaccines suffer an attenuation, a decrease in effectiveness, over time. The single Johnson and Johnson (J+J) shot efficacy, as measured by the ability to prevent symptomatic disease, has been found to decrease the most over time, perhaps because it was initially thought to only require only a single shot. But the two messenger-RNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) appear to do so to a lesser extent as well, Pfizer a little more than Moderna. Some think that difference may be due to the required 4 weeks between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> shots with Moderna, compared to only 3 weeks with Pfizer, may be at least a partial explanation of that difference.

As a result, the Federal Center for Disease Control (CDC) issued an advisory about who, of those already immunized, should get another booster shot in order to rejuvenate an individual's immunity. For those who got the messenger RNA shots, they recommend that the following groups, with links to their definitions, get a booster shot at 6 months or more after their initial series:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in [long-term care settings](#)
- Age 18+ who have [underlying medical conditions](#)
- Age 18+ who work or live in [high-risk settings](#)

Maine CDC is pushing hard to help Maine residents and others who are in Maine now to get these free boosters. There are a few wrinkles you should know about.

First, these same rules have been in place for over a month now for Pfizer, so all vaccination sites have current policies on how to give those. Fortunately, the previous requirements for deep freeze storage have been found to be unnecessary; they can be kept safely for a couple weeks just in a household/office refrigerator, which makes their availability greater. However, most vaccination sites like clinics, pharmacies and medical offices, have not yet had time to put in place their policies for Moderna and J+J, as I know from asking around this last week in October.

Second, it appears from experience so far that it is not crucial that the booster be the same type as the original, so even if you got Moderna for your first two shots, this booster could be Pfizer, or perhaps J+J, a solution for those who got Moderna first time around and want the booster ASAP.

The dosing of boosters is a little different. Moderna boost doses will be half-strength compared to the original series because they have been shown to be sufficiently strong at that dose with fewer local and body-wide shot side-effects, like body aches, fever, and local tenderness. The other two vaccines will be given full strength.

[1 https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p1021-covid-booster.html](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p1021-covid-booster.html)

## **ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COVID19 BOOSTERS, ALMOST! (Continued)**

Another recommendation is that one of the m-RNA vaccines should be used to boost previous J+J recipients, since they are likely to work from 2 different strategies and thus be better. Also, in pre-menopausal women, boosting with J+J carries a very small but real risk of a serious clotting disorder when used; switching to an m-RNA booster avoids that risk in those people.

Lastly, there is quite a demand for these boosters already. Over half of the 4000 immunizations given daily in Maine recently are boosters. The state CDC is working to make getting one as simple as possible including taking applicant's word for how they qualify and so not recording a medical clinician's referral, maintaining a website with contact information, and making them all free.

Over November, we are going to also see children 5-18 being urged to get Pfizer vaccinations and probably Moderna eventually as an alternative. That will help schools keep open without all this sudden class quarantining necessity and be more like the good old days.

We also are likely to see booster shots recommended for all previous recipients by the end of November, when enough vaccine becomes available.

Studies in other countries like Israel have shown a real benefit from such boosters. So, get one soon if you are eligible. It is very likely that boosters will be part of an annual recommendation for all of us, like flu shots, which, by the way, you could and should get at the same time you get a Covid booster this month.

We are still in a serious case- and severe illness-surge. Despite Maine having one of the best vaccination rates in the country, the rates by county are quite variable, some, like Somerset, are less than 50% while Cumberland is close to 90%. And county case numbers correlate closely with those vaccination rates. The Covid surge is mostly in the unvaccinated. Maine currently has half (7%) the national average of the population that has had the disease (14%), but is catching up, unfortunately, as the virus finds new pockets to infect. Please do yourself, your family, and our communities good by getting vaccinated and boosted; until all do, life here will still be disrupted by this virus.

<sup>2</sup> Find available booster shot sites and contact information: <https://vaccinateme.maine.gov/>

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CODE OFFICE REPORT  
FOR  
MONTH OF OCTOBER 2021

**PERMITS.**

- Building Permits issued: 6 ( 2 single family dwelling and 1 non-residential)
- Internal Plumbing Permits issued: 2
- Septic System Permits issued: 4
- Floodplain Permits issued: 0
- Shoreland Zoning Use Permits : 2
- Certificate of Compliance Permits: 1
- Total Permits Issued: 15
- Site Inspectionis: 17

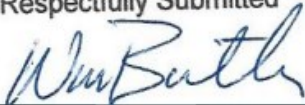
**INSPECTIONS/PROJECT UPDATES**

October Planning Board Meeting. We had an active and busy planning board meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> with three projects to review and a number of interesting topics to discuss. An 80 seat year round restaurant was approved by the planning board. It still requires State Fire Marshall Approval and Building permit approval. The other two applications are in the review process. One, being the parking lot construction at the Travis Mills Foundation and, the other, replacement of a 38 foot seasonal dock on Echo Lake. Under CEO Items, we discussed the mandatory 5 year waiting time for gifted subdivided lots and the importance of finding of facts for planning board decisions.

Scheduled Off Time. I will be off from October 29<sup>th</sup> through November 16<sup>th</sup> visiting family on the west coast. I may also be off from mid-December to mid-January. More on that later as right now it is tentative.

Permits to Date. 2021 was a busy year with total of 85 Building, Shoreland Zoning, Certificate of Compliance, and Plumbing permits issued since May 11<sup>th</sup> of this year. Inspections have been averaging 15 per month. I have been enjoying the opportunity to meet folks in town and look forward to more of the same in 2022.

Respectfully Submitted



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Submitted by Mary Anne Libby

Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better.  
Sidney Sheldon

We have so many books for sale upstairs in the Clayton Dollof room and in the hallway upstairs, please feel free to come browse and grab a few. \$1 for hardcover and trade paperback, and 50 cents for mass market paperbacks. Load up a bag or two and keep some on your To Be Read pile or give them as possible holiday gifts for folks. We do ask that you not drop off book donations outside the building while we aren't there. We've had to toss a number of boxes or bags of books because they were ruined by weather. We will accept fiction that is in good shape, and nonfiction in good shape and that isn't too outdated.

While supply chains from various publishers and book warehouses are still faltering, it can be challenging to keep our new book shelves stocked. But – we did get in an order this week, of both children's and adult materials, so please feel free to come in and take a look!

Once again some of our wonderful trustees and volunteers came to clear up George's garden space for the winter and plant some bulbs. Can't wait to see what pops up in the spring!

Alice did a video of a Halloween story and we posted it on our Facebook page, please feel free to go click on it and watch! She plans on doing a few more winter holiday-related story videos in November and December, we hope you enjoy them. Along with each of the videos, she will also put together some Take&Make packets for kids, related to the theme of the story she reads. Please come in and sign up your kids for the packets, or call (293-2565) or email([librarian@drshawlibrary.org](mailto:librarian@drshawlibrary.org)) us if your family would like to come pick up some packets when we have them ready.

We are always looking at programming ideas for children or adults, as long as we can put them together safely regarding COVID concerns. We're looking at possible ideas for later this winter, and of course for next summer. If you have ideas for any programs you would like, please let us know, we love working with our patrons to provide services.

We always try to have some seasonal books displayed on the table in the children's room. Obviously we are just finishing up with autumn and Halloween books. Next we'll start putting out some books about Thanksgiving – come take a look!

It is fun to see what books are popular with our readers. Within the last month and a half, those adult titles that circulated frequently were Stay Hidden (Doiron), Dead by Dawn (Doiron), Other People's Houses (Waxman), The Madness of Crowds (Louise Penny), One Square Inch of Silence: one man's search for natural silence (Hempton), and Ordinary Grace (Krueger). Popular books among our younger readers were: Memory Jars (Broszgol), A House for Hermit Crab (Carle), Banana Fox and the Secret Sour Society (Graphic Novel by Kochai-ka), and various Halloween books. Graphic novels have become very popular among our middle reader and young adult patrons

If you have a child or student who is interested in learning about baking (cakes!) and food science, here is a nice site to explore for putting together a few lessons or activities to do together: <https://www.freetech4teachers.com/2021/10/the-science-of-cake-and-83-other-food.html>

And, now that winter approaches and we might want some cozy indoor activities to do, there are websites for adults that let you play sudoku, word searches, and card games. You might try: <https://www.thesudoku.com/>

From AARP: <https://www.thesudoku.com/>

<https://freegames.org/card-games/>

I am just starting So Many Beginnings, by Bethany C. Morrow – a remix of Little Women. What are you reading as you bring in the firewood and finish the last harvest from the garden?