

TOWN OF

Vassalboro



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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Municipal Directory

Emergency	911
Town Office	872-2826
Public Works	923-3985
Transfer Station	923-3051
School	923-3100
Library	923-3233
Animal Control	458-4853
Police Chief - Non Emergency	557-4601

Vassalboro Town Office

682 Main Street ~ PO Box 129
North Vassalboro, Maine 04962
Phone: (207) 872-2826 ~ Fax: (207) 872-5414

Hours

Monday thru Wednesday: 8:00am to 4:00pm
Thursday: 8:00am to 6:30pm
Friday: 8:00am to 12pm
Closed Saturday, Sunday and all Holidays.

www.Vassalboro.net

Photography

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Annual Report Design

Sue Bourdon ~ Bourdon&Co., LLC
www.bourdonandco.com

DEDICATION



PHILIP W. HAINES

This year's Annual Town Report is dedicated to the memory of Philip W. Haines, who was a long-time resident and public servant of the Town of Vassalboro. Since 1972 upon moving to Vassalboro, Phil served in numerous capacities including 16 years on the Vassalboro Board of Selectmen, many years on the Budget Committee and Sanitary District Board of Trustees, and more than 30 years as a volunteer fireman on the Vassalboro Fire Department, including work as their treasurer. His other volunteer service within the community included time served as Treasurer of the Vassalboro Friends Meeting, the Webber Pond Lake Association, the Tilton Lane Association, and ten years on the Board of Directors for Delta Ambulance.

The above list of good works is important...but what we truly want to remember is the man himself and why he was important to our community in all of the activities and accomplishments he was a part of. Those who have attended Vassalboro Town Meeting and other public meetings will remember Phil as a true statesman. His whole body was eloquent, using his height, his long reach of arm and a sweep of his hand to emphasize his point. And Phil was always willing and able to express his thoughts. On occasion, if your viewpoint did not agree with his, you could take comfort in the fact that he heard, understood, and processed your take on the situation. Those of us that worked with Phil Haines in Town Government never felt we were compromising. We were working toward agreement to move the needs of the Town forward. He had compassion for the needs, well-being, and safety of Vassalboro residents and staff. Though Vassalboro lost a strong and passionate community leader in the passing of Phil Haines on September 23, 2017, the contributions that he made will long be remembered.

TOWN MANAGER'S STORY

MARY SABINS ~ Town Manager



Another year has passed quickly by, with many projects accomplished. In mid-summer after receiving town meeting approval, a two-day a week bus route to provide transportation for those without it was established in Town. With one-day prior arrangement, the Kennebec Explorer bus will come directly to a Vassalboro resident's home to pick you up and take you to your desired destination in the China-Vassalboro-Winslow-Waterville-Augusta area. This is a general public bus service and anyone needing transportation is invited to use the service. Fares are \$1.25 for each one-way trip. Fares are due when boarding. The bus is also equipped with a wheelchair lift to help serve people with disabilities. Rides must be scheduled in advance by calling KVCAP at 1-800-542-8227 option 2. Despite our effort to get the word out about the availability of this new bus service, the first six months of this bus service saw very few riders. So please help us get the word out about the service, to keep the bus option available in the future for those who have told us they need a transportation option.

In addition to this new bus service sponsored by the Town FAVOR (Friends Advocating for Vassalboro's Older Residents) Committee, the Committee held their first annual Senior Services Fair in May of 2017 to introduce Vassalboro's elderly residents to the area services that are available to them. The Committee started small with their first Fair and once complete, the Committee members decided it was so successful, we should hold it annually! So on May 23, 2018 from noon to 4:00 p.m. the second annual Senior Services Fair will be held on a much larger scale, and at a new venue in the larger St. Bridget Center (Old Catholic Church) on Main Street in North Vassalboro. The St. Bridget Center owners (Jim & Rachel Kilbride) have been working hard for a few years now to renovate the old church to create a community center-like reception building to welcome the public for community events such as this Senior Services Fair. This Fair will be the first gathering in the new building!

The FAVOR Committee also sponsored a Window Dressers project in the fall of 2017, where 267 pre-ordered wooden window inserts for mostly Vassalboro residents were wrapped in plastic and the perimeter bound in foam at a weekend Community Build event held at the Old Woolen Mill. The inserts are designed to fit snugly into interior window openings to prevent drafts and save on winter heating costs. The program was a huge success with many volunteers putting in many hours for a great cause. Thank you to all that participated! Well done!

As for other projects in Town, the new China Lake boat launch (ramp) project began in the fall of 2017, but because of the extent of the work required to complete the project, and the onset of cold weather resulting in the shut-down of hot-top plants, the curbing is not yet complete. The Contractor will be back in the spring of 2018 to finalize the work. The Town appreciates the financial assistance of the Boating Division of the State Bureau of Parks and Lands toward this project. Going forward, recreationists can enjoy a much easier and safer access to boating on the lake.



Mike Vashon (L) and Nate Gray volunteer during the Window Dressers Community Build.

Photo by Mary Sabins

Several times in the past year, the Selectmen and I have been involved in discussion with the Alewife Restoration Initiative (ARI) Group who are spearheading the effort to reintroduce alewife into China Lake. In order for the ARI Group to be successful in their mission, six dams in town must be either breached or a fishway must be installed to assist with fish passage. One of the six dams involved in this project is the Outlet Stream Dam at the base of China Lake, which belongs to the Town. A fishway is being planned and designed for that sight, and voters will be asked at the June 4, 2018 to support an article that will allow the installation of such fishway. Representatives from ARI and others working on this project will be available at the meeting to answer questions from the voters. Voters are encouraged to attend all town meetings.

On a sad note, in September of 2017, long-time Selectman Phil Haines passed away. The remaining Selectmen, town staff, and I remember him fondly and miss his valuable contribution to the work of the Board of Selectmen. His replacement, John Melrose, was elected in November 2017 by special election to complete Phil's unexpired term through June 2018. While never having served as a Selectman before, John is not new to municipal government practices. He served on the town Budget Committee for several years before winning office as a Selectman, and he has indicated a desire to run again for the position to extend his term for another three years.

In late October 2017, a severe wind and rain storm hit the area causing a major power outage for several days, and blocked roadways with downed trees and power lines. As a result of that storm and the hardships caused by those enduring the power outages including no school for four days, the Town is looking into the possibility of declaring the school as a Red

Cross Shelter, which may put us in line for Federal grant funding in the fall of 2018 for a generator to power the school for such purposes in times of need going forward. The Selectmen and I are thankful for our town



Photo by Mary Sabins

Volunteers apply foam to the outside perimeter of wooden inserts prepared at the Window Dressers Community Build workshop.

Public Works, Fire and EMS emergency responders who worked steadily to clear the brush and debris from that storm.

In closing, I look forward to another year of serving you as your Town Manager, and I encourage residents to call me at 872-2826 or email me at msabins@vassalboro.net with any comments or concerns about our town government functions. I wish to extend thanks to the Selectmen for their energy and devotion to the decision making they bring to the workings of the town every day, to the volunteers who serve tirelessly on town committees and the fire & rescue services, and to my talented town staff for all of their assistance and their years of dedication to the citizenry of the Town of Vassalboro.



(L-R) John Melrose, Lauchlin Titus, Robert Browne

TEL.	TERM EXPIRES	ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS	ADDRESS
873-2108	2020	Lauchlin Titus, Chairman	1063 Main Street, Vassalboro
923-3391	2018	Philip Haines [†]	702 Bog Road, Vassalboro
626-0966	2019	Robert Browne	9 Szady Drive, Vassalboro
923-3729	2018	John Melrose ¹	636 Bog Road, Vassalboro
SCHOOL COMMITTEE			
872-8596	2019	Kevin Levasseur, Chairman	209 Bog Road, Vassalboro
923-4069	2018	Jolene Clark Gamage	1580 Cross Hill Road, Vassalboro
485-4008	2020	Erin Libby Loiko	1227 Riverside Drive, Vassalboro
314-2922	2020	Susan Tuthill	162 Seawards Mills Road, Vassalboro
	2019	Jessica Clark	569 Webber Pond Road, Vassalboro
PLANNING BOARD			
873-5226	2018	Virginia Brackett, Chairman	20 Alpine St., Vassalboro
	2018	Betsy Poulin	373 Hussey Hill Road, Vassalboro
923-3800	2019	Douglas Phillips	738 Bog Road, Vassalboro
923-3400	2019	Sally Butler	49 Taber Hill Road, Vassalboro
923-6005	2018	John Phillips	331 Crowell Hill Road, Vassalboro
923-3017	2019	Marianne Stevens, Alternate	1618 Cross Hill Road, Vassalboro
BUDGET COMMITTEE			
923-3729	2018	John Melrose, Chairman*	636 Bog Road, Vassalboro
873-7399	2019	Donald Breton	174 Cemetery Street, Vassalboro
622-7730	2018	Richard Phippen	492 Webber Pond Road, Vassalboro
873-9094	2018	Rick Denico, Jr.	237 Oak Grove Road, Vassalboro
923-3800	2018	Douglas Phillips	738 Bog Road, Vassalboro
923-3511	2018	Elizabeth Reuthe	924 Cross Hill Road, Vassalboro
873-2605	2019	Peggy Schaffer	22 Station Hill Road, Vassalboro
622-3096	2019	William Browne	793 Webber Pond Road, Vassalboro
622-2164	2019	Eddie Scholz	11 Fairway Drive, Unit 4, Vassalboro
872-7062	2019	Phillip Landry	10 St. Bridgett's Way, No. Vassalboro
BOARD OF APPEALS			
923-3185	2019	Kathy Lees, Chairman	604 Bog Road, Vassalboro
873-3911	2018	Gary Coull	36 Maple Street, Vassalboro
923-3231	2018	Peggy Cain	358 Hussey Hill Road, Vassalboro
923-3759	2019	Leon Duff	595 Hussey Hill Road, Vassalboro
923-3803	2019	John Reuthe	924 Cross Hill Road, Vassalboro
TOWN CLERK			
872-2826	2018	Catherine Coyne	P.O. Box 82, N. Vassalboro

* Resigned † Deceased ¹ Filling remainder of P. Haines' term.

		SANITARY DISTRICT	
872-5884	2019	Ray Breton, Chairman	7 Priest Hill Road, Vassalboro
692-2421	2018	Lee Trahan	132 Clinton Ave., Winslow
923-3971	2018	Alfred Roy	12 So. Stanley Hill Road, Vassalboro
923-3758	2020	Paul Mitnik	700 Cross Hill Road, Vassalboro
	2020	Rebecca Goodrich, Treasurer	889 Main Street, Vassalboro

		RECREATION COMMITTEE	
649-0887	2018	Daniel Ouellette, Director	
	2018	Steve Polley	
	2018	Matt Hankey	
	2018	Kevin Luczko	
	2018	Tiffany Luczko	
	2018	Marc Cote	
	2018	Matt Linqvist	
	2018	Jessica Decker	

		CONSERVATION COMMISSION	
	2020	Betsy Poulin, Chairman	373 Hussey Hill Road, Vassalboro
923-3836	2019	Steve Jones	55 Quaker Lane, Vassalboro
923-3397	2020	Holly Weidner	320 Main Street, Vassalboro
	2019	Dylan Dillaway	552 Webber Pond Road, Vassalboro
923-3483	2018	David Jenney	844 Cross Hill Road, Vassalboro

		CEMETERY COMMITTEE	
923-3220	2018	Jane E. Aiudi, Chairman	656 Bog Road, Vassalboro
445-2754	2018	Russell Smith	1647 North Belfast Road, Vassalboro
923-3411	2018	Tom Richards	508 Hussey Hill Road, Vassalboro
873-4458	2018	Tim Giroux	568 Oak Grove Road, Vassalboro
923-3483	2018	David Jenney	844 Cross Hill Road, Vassalboro
923-3391	2018	Sue Haines	702 Bog Road, Vassalboro
923-3704	2018	Sandra Toohey	45 So. Stanley Hill Road, Vassalboro
314-6218	2018	Richard Lees	324 Main Street, Vassalboro
	2018	Jody Kundreskas	

		FAVOR COMMITTEE	
	2018	Vicki Schad	So. Stanley Hill Road, Vassalboro
	2018	Jim Schad	So. Stanley Hill Road, Vassalboro
	2018	Leon Duff	595 Hussey Hill Road, Vassalboro
	2018	John Reuthe	924 Cross Hill Road, Vassalboro
	2018	Cindy Ferland	Ferland Lane, Vassalboro
	2018	Rachel Kilbride	860 Main Street, Vassalboro
	2018	Rose Fortin	Fortin Road, Vassalboro

		FIRST RESPONDER SERVICE	
622-4388	2018	Dan Mayotte, Director	1574A Riverside Drive, Vassalboro
485-4558	2018	Peter Allen, Ass't Dir.	2418 Riverside Drive, Vassalboro

		FIRE CHIEF	
622-7811	2018	Eric Rowe	Cushnoc Road, Vassalboro

		POLICE CHIEF	
557-4601	2018	Mark Brown	Riverside Drive, Vassalboro

		HEALTH OFFICER	
469-5534	2018	Morgan Titus Rau	841 Main Street, Vassalboro

		KENNEBEC WATER DISTRICT TRUSTEE	
923-3305	2019	Frank Richards	100 Pleasant Cove Road, Vassalboro

SENATE OF MAINE

129th Legislature ~ Senate District 15 ~ Senator Roger Katz

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

In some ways, I was proud of our accomplishments in the legislature this past year. However, too often we mirrored the partisan dysfunction we have seen in Washington.

On the plus side, we took a big step dealing with the referendum process by removing the surtax imposed on Maine's small businesses and professionals. I believe that, had it been left in place, this tax would have presented serious problems for Maine's economy. At the same time, voters made it clear that they wanted more state revenue directed toward K-12 education. To that end, we passed one of the largest increases in education spending in state history. Significantly, we also put in place measures to ensure more resources go directly into the classroom.

The Legislature also passed a measure to make Maine compliant with the REAL ID Act. Had lawmakers failed to take action, Maine citizens would have been unable to use their driver's licenses to board commercial airplanes and access certain federal buildings, beginning in 2018.

On the negative side, I am afraid we did not do our job dealing with both the biennial budget and the legalization of marijuana. Although we eventually passed a budget on the 4th of July, it did not come until after a government shutdown. It was not our finest hour. Partisan gamesmanship was the order of the day rather than collaboration and compromise. I am so proud of the Senate – both parties – for everything we did to avoid the impasse.

The other big disappointment for me was how we dealt with the subject of marijuana. I chaired the committee to write the law implementing this citizen's referendum. Despite many months of bipartisan work and the fact that our proposal passed both bodies of the legislature, the governor vetoed the bill. We will give this issue another shot this year during the upcoming session. Whether one likes it or not, it is now legal to possess and grow small amounts of marijuana. It is our responsibility to put in place the framework to ensure it is done safely so that our communities will be protected.

Mostly, I would like to thank you again for the great honor of representing you in the State Senate. I get goosebumps every day that I walk into the State House, knowing I will have a chance to have an impact on the direction of our wonderful state. I do a better job when I hear from you, so please, keep the calls and emails coming! Feel free to contact me at (207) 485-2394 or roger.katz@legislature.maine.gov if you have comments, questions or if you would like assistance in navigating our state's bureaucracy.

Sincerely,



Roger Katz
State Senator, District 15

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 80 ~ Dick Bradstreet ~ Augusta, Somerville, Windsor, Hibberts Gore

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature convened on January 3rd, and we will be working on nearly 500 bills before statutory adjournment on April 18th. The Second Session deals with bills given an “emergency” designation, and bills which have been “carried over” from the previous session. During this time I will continue my work on the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. This committee’s broad and essential jurisdiction includes: Judicial system organization and budget; criminal and civil procedure, child protection and family law, as well as civil, medical, and human rights.

By now you will have received my Legislative Update and survey in the mail. If you have not already done so, I ask that you please take a few minutes to answer the questions and provide any feedback you have. I encourage you to call me anytime at 287-1440 or email me at Dick.Bradstreet@legislature.maine.gov to keep me updated on any concerns you might have. If you would like to be added to my email update list, you can do so by emailing me directly with your request. Another way to stay up to date on state news, and follow pieces of legislation through the process, is to visit the Legislature’s website, www.legislature.maine.gov.

I thank you for the confidence you have placed in me to be your State Representative in District 80. I look forward to hearing from you!

Best regards,



Dick Bradstreet
State Representative

Photo by Jan Clowes

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

1st District, Maine ~ Chellie Pingree ~ Congresswoman

Dear Friend,

I hope this letter finds you well. It's a privilege to share an update on my work to represent you and your family in Washington and in Maine.

Even though Washington is so bitterly divided these days, I've continued to look for bipartisan opportunities to address issues important to our state. Nearly all the bills I've introduced this Congress have Republican cosponsors.

One piece of legislation would help protect our state's economy by investing in working waterfronts. Another would allow Mainers to import less expensive prescriptions from Canada. And several bills would help our farmers capitalize on the fastest growing areas of agriculture—local and organic sales—by investing in research, increasing consumer access to healthy food, and improving farmer programs.

I'm happy to report bipartisan victories for our veterans as well. After working for years with Maine's Congressional Delegation, we were finally able to push a much-needed expansion of the Portland VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic through Congress. Legislation I introduced to help veterans who find themselves in debt to the Department of Veterans Affairs unanimously passed the House of Representatives. And full GI Bill benefits were extended to a group of veterans who had been denied them previously—an issue I've introduced legislation to address.

While I strive to find common ground with my colleagues on everything from rural broadband access to economic development, there are many areas where I will not compromise. I have serious concerns about the direction the Trump Administration and its allies in Congress are taking our country. In so many ways, they have abandoned America's leadership in the world, made our country less safe, and are jeopardizing our future. They've weakened our health care system, rigged the tax code against working families, and endangered the environment. With one hand, they are taking away resources our families and communities need. With the other, they are offering generous giveaways to giant corporations and the wealthiest Americans.

Over the last year, I've received an unprecedented amount of feedback on these issues from my constituents. With their concerns and interests in mind, I have fought hard against these policies. I will continue using my role in Congress and the Appropriations Committee to hold the Administration and the President accountable.

Please keep in touch with your views or if there is anything I might be able to help you with. My office assists hundreds of constituents every year who have issues with federal programs or agencies. It's an honor to serve you.

Take care,



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

SENATE OF MAINE

Susan Collins, Senator ~ Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Somerset Counties

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to represent Maine in the United States Senate. I am grateful for the trust the people of our State have placed in me and welcome this opportunity to share some key accomplishments from this past year.

Maine has the oldest average age in the nation. As Chairman of the Senate Aging Committee, my top three priorities for the Committee are fighting fraud and financial abuse directed at our nation's seniors, increasing investments in biomedical research, and improving retirement security. Following the Committee's investigation into skyrocketing prescription drug costs, I authored bipartisan legislation to foster generic competition, which was signed into law. The Aging Committee's toll-free hotline (1-855-303-9470) makes it easier for seniors to report suspected fraud and receive assistance. To support the 40 million family caregivers in the United States, I am proud to have authored the RAISE Family Caregivers Act to create a coordinated strategy to support family members who make countless personal and financial sacrifices to care for their loved ones.

The opioid crisis touches families and communities across our state. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I fought for significant increases in funding to support community, law-enforcement, and public health efforts. In April, the State of Maine was awarded over \$2 million to fight this devastating public health crisis. Additionally, I have authored legislation to support grandparents and other extended family members who are raising grandchildren as a result of the nation's opioid epidemic.

Biomedical research has the potential to improve and save lives, and also supports good jobs at research facilities here in Maine. Last year, the Appropriations Committee approved a \$2 billion increase for the National Institutes of Health for the third consecutive year. This includes an increase of nearly 30 percent for research on Alzheimer's, our nation's most costly disease. As founder and co-chair of the Senate Diabetes Caucus, I work to raise awareness of the threats posed by diabetes, invest in research, and improve access to treatment options. My bill to establish a national commission of health care experts on diabetes care and prevention was signed into law in 2017.

We owe our veterans so much. Last year, I worked to secure the authorization of a Community-Based Outpatient Clinic in Portland to support the health care of Maine's veterans in the southern part of our state. I also worked to secure funding extensions to help veterans throughout rural Maine receive

health care within their communities. I also worked to secure funding for housing vouchers for veterans to reduce veterans' homelessness.

Maine's contributions to our national security stretch from Kittery to Limestone. I successfully advocated for critical funding for projects at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for construction of an additional ship that will likely be built at Bath Iron Works. This funding will strengthen our national security and preserve great jobs in our state.

As chairman of the Transportation and Housing Appropriations Subcommittee, I worked to increase funding for the TIGER program that has provided Maine with more than \$122 million for vital transportation projects. For housing, I worked to provide \$160 million to help communities protect children from the harmful effects of lead poisoning.

Growing our economy remains a top priority. I supported the comprehensive tax reform bill because it will help lower- and middle-income families keep more of their hard-earned money; boost the economy; and encourage businesses, both small and large, to grow and create jobs here in Maine and around the country. This legislation contains key provisions I authored that are important to Mainers, including preserving the deduction for state and local taxes, expanding the deduction for medical expenses, and enabling public employees such as firefighters, teachers, and police officers, as well as clergy and employees of nonprofits, to make "catch-up" contributions to their retirement accounts. I led the effort to ensure that the tax cut will not trigger automatic budget cuts to Medicare or any other programs.

A Maine value that always guides me is our unsurpassed work ethic. As of December 2017, I have cast more than 6,500 consecutive votes, continuing my record of never missing a roll-call vote since my Senate service began in 1997.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve Kennebec County and Maine in the United States Senate. If ever I can be of assistance to you, please contact my Augusta office at 207-622-8414 or visit my website at www.collins.senate.gov. May 2018 be a good year for you, your family, your community, and our state.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

TOWN CLERK REPORT

CATHERINE COYNE ~ Town Clerk



Town Office Staff (L to R): Front row: Debbie Johnston, Cathy Coyne, Jean Poulin. Back row: Ellery Bane, Dick Dolby, Mary Sabins.

I am pleased to submit my Town Clerk's report to the Selectmen and to the residents of Vassalboro.

Certified Copies of Death, Birth, and Marriage Certificates can be obtained at a cost of \$15.00. Additional copies are \$6.00 each.

You must have proof of having held a previous hunting licenses or proof of having taken a Hunter Safety Course in order to purchase a Hunting license. You do not have to be a resident of Vassalboro in order to obtain a license.

There were approximately 1091 dogs tags issued to Vassalboro residents. All dog licenses expire December 31st. You must have a rabies certificate in order to license your dog. You will also need to provide proof of Spay or Neutering. A spayed/neutered dog is \$6.00 and the fee for an unaltered dog is \$11.00. There is a \$25.00 late fee after January 31st. For the past several years we have held a Rabies Clinic at the North Vassalboro Fire Station in November. Dog licensing is available at the clinic. Part of the proceeds goes to the Vassalboro Food Pantry. You can reach the Animal Control Officer, Peter A. Nerber at 458-4853.

General Assistance is a program that provides assistance with basic needs for eligible applicants who cannot provide for themselves and their families. General Assistance is administered on each Wednesday by appointment unless there is an emergency. Any person who has been assisted with General Assistance in any municipality in the State of Maine must retain all receipts to keep their eligibility. You can call 872-2826 to set up an appointment.

THE FOLLOWING ARE MARRIAGE LICENSES THAT WERE RECORDED FROM MARCH 1, 2017 – MARCH 1, 2018.

PARTY A	PARTY B	DATE MARRIED
Chad Joseph Hopkins	Melanie Louise Frank	March 11, 2017
Bonnie Lee Cassidy	Alfred Robert Boucher	May 27, 2017
Howard Louis Labbe	Amy Louise Hartley	June 3, 2017
Scott Michael Dumas	Courtney Jean Rustemeyer	June 3, 2017
Andrew Drake Lapointe	Alexandria Vestie Thomas	June 17, 2017
Emylia Cora Millett	Joshua Robert Douglas Wilde	July 1, 2017
Sarah Kilch Gaffney	Brian Lewis Reed	July 6, 2017
Sarah Lynne Estabrook	Isaac Jay Witham	July 7, 2017
Blake Janet Bailey	Matthew Gregory Potter	July 15, 2017
Thaddeus Glen Clark	Savannah Ashley Labbe	July 18, 2017
Kevin James Eastman	Katrina Eileen Bickford	July 29, 2017
Kelsie Marie Moore	Zachary Paul LaCroix	July 28, 2017
Jordan William Craig	Emilie Joie Dumont	August 11, 2017
Robert Scott Picard II	Kimberly Beth Glidden	August 12, 2017
Lisa Marie Reynolds	David Michael Dellinger Jr.	August 12, 2017
Ellen Marie Walsh	Justin Allen Cash	August 19, 2017
Deborah Ann Hatt	Christopher Neal Davidson	August 19, 2017
Amanda Lynn Landry	Miguel Alejandro Camarena Burdier	August 21, 2017
Cody Jon Thibodeau	Randa McKenzie Tardy	August 26, 2017
Shawn A. Woodbury	April D. Woodbury	September 10, 2017
Tory Joseph Hemphill	Heather Leigh Labbe	September 13, 2017
Kelsey Rae Ferris	Shane Randall Maroon	September 17, 2017
Erica Marie Petrie	Cody Paul Dickson	September 23, 2017
Kelsey Swain Bushover	Nathan Dean Tobey	September 23, 2017
Bryan Patrick Lawlor	Karen Ann Fogarty	September 23, 2017

Andrew Stephen Doak	Amanda Lea Kimball	September 23, 2017
Amber-Rose Bernier	Sinjin Nathaniel Rancourt	September 30, 2017
Audra Rose Taylor	Matthew Stephen Gurney	October 2, 2017
Kenneth Joseph Dufour	Virginia Suzanne Coull	October 7, 2017
Maureen Sheldon Brown	Melvin Rupert Clarrage	October 7, 2017
Tiffany Laura Jacobs	Jason Matthew Millett	October 14, 2017
Jean Marie Antworth	Patrick Darcey Korte	November 3, 2017
Kelvin Keith Brooks	Andrea Joan Hendricks	November 5, 2017
Guinevere Kennedy	Randy James Pottle II	November 3, 2017
Melissa Marie Branwen	Wade Gordon Pence	November 25, 2017
Brittany Dawn Strout	Edmund William Leighton	December 9, 2017

THERE WERE 46 BIRTHS TO VASSALBORO RESIDENTS FROM MARCH 1, 2017 – MARCH 1, 2018.

THE VITAL STATISTIC INFORMATION LISTED BELOW PERTAINS TO DEATHS FROM MARCH 1, 2017 – MARCH 1, 2018.

NAME	AGE	LOCATION	DATE OF DEATH
Bizier, Dollis H.	93	Vassalboro	06-23-2017
Bourne, Frank Ambrose	96	Augusta	12-07-2017
Boutin, Elsie Nadine	93	Vassalboro	01-22-2018
Cates, Herbert	94	Augusta	01-18-2018
Dunlap, Dorothy Wright	92	Vassalboro	08-01-2017
Dunn, Kathleen A.	56	Vassalboro	10-17-2017
Duplessie, Paul Emile	81	Vassalboro	08-22-2017
Egold, William James	5	Bangor	05-16-2017
Frappier, James R.	58	Augusta	10-17-2017
Gilbert, Jimmy Dean	51	Vassalboro	12-14-2017
Haines, Philip W.	72	Augusta	09-23-2017
Haywood, Stephen Clark	63	Augusta	06-03-2017
Hogendorn, Jan Stafford	79	Augusta	10-10-2017
Johnson, Eddie Lawrence	67	Augusta	05-24-2017
Jones, Elizabeth S.	80	Vassalboro	01-28-2018
Kiralis, Elizabeth S.	93	Oakland	12-06-2017
Lapointe, Norman Roger Jr	54	Vassalboro	12-19-2017
Leathers, Paula R.	68	Augusta	09-12-2017
Lessard, Paul Edward	68	Oakland	03-16-2017
Mathieu, Sandra Jones	65	Vassalboro	05-29-2017
Mayo, Heather Anne	47	Portland	10-01-2017
Mereen, David A.	71	Portland	09-03-2017
Micalovich, Dorothy Ann	79	Vassalboro	03-16-2017
Mitchell, Maralyn W.	76	Vassalboro	10-14-2017
Morin, Kevin Edward	52	Augusta	11-16-2017
Nadeau, Beverley A.	78	Waterville	06-30-2017
Nagata, Ralph I.	92	Vassalboro	02-19-2018
Noel, Edward Paul	78	Vassalboro	08-02-2017
Pearson, Patricia C.	64	Augusta	03-06-2017
Pelletier, Alberic J.	85	Augusta	02-18-2018
Pooler, Anthony R.	62	Augusta	07-17-2017
Poulin, Jean Ann	69	Vassalboro	02-26-2018
Proctor, Timothy	51	Augusta	08-05-2017
Rines, Joseph Eldridge Jr	77	Portland	07-03-2017
Rosignol, Ray Harland	67	Augusta	10-27-2017
Sargent, Seth D.	36	Monson	01-22-2018
Seney, Theodore P. Jr.	74	Anson	11-29-2017
Sims, Lynette M.	55	Vassalboro	05-20-2017
Steeves, Frederick M.	79	Togus USVA	06-04-2017
Tarbox, Arthur E. Jr.	70	Augusta	09-28-2017
Wentzel, Philip Martin	89	Bangor	02-06-2018
Wilson, Howard R	81	Togus USVA	05-11-2017



TOWN ASSESSOR

ELLERY G. BANE, C.M.A. ~ Assessor

Once again it has been my pleasure to serve as the Assessor for the Town of Vassalboro. Looking back on the previous year, I believe the most encouraging sign is the continual increase in the permitting of new homes and supplemental auxiliary structures as well as a rebound in the real estate market. These are all good signs for recovery from the 2008 collapse.

On another front of importance, the assessing office implemented the 3rd stage of the quarterly review process in town. This review collected a net of \$741,600 in valuation for the town. The quarter review is not a 'revaluation' in the sense that values are re-aligned with the current market. The purpose of the quarter review is to keep the building assessment inventory accurate and up to date while ensuring the Town of Vassalboro fulfills its statutory requirement (Title 36 M.R.S.A. Sec 328). This review project identifies improvements, additions that were not previously recognized, omissions from the record, and deletions appropriate for fair and equitable assessments here. The process also for the first time in years includes the addition of photos of all the houses

in town for each property record card. The photos themselves help present a much more professional looking product for the town. It certainly has been a long time coming.

For the 2017 tax year the town had a total valuation of \$299,164,200 and issued a total of 1,176 homestead exemptions. There were also 142 veterans exemptions granted in this last year. There are also residents who have applied and entered State classified programs such as tree growth, farm land, and open space. All of these programs are applied locally and can be a help to taxpayers in easing the burdens they face in regards to property tax. I can assure you that in these trying economic times, where we are continually faced with State cuts to aid municipalities, the Town of Vassalboro is diligently working to keep the impact on property taxes to a minimum. Any help that I can offer in explaining any programs and exemptions is encouraged, so please feel free to contact me at the Town of Vassalboro assessing office at 872-2826 or on the town's website at ebane@vassalboro.net. As always, I look forward to working with you in the future.



UNPAID PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES

As of February 28, 2018

Acct	Name ----	Year	Original Tax	Payment / Adjustments	Amount Due
184	P BRAGDON, PETER	2016	330.18	0.00	330.18
359	P BRIDGET'S PLACE	2010	146.45	55.86	90.59
359	P BRIDGET'S PLACE	2011	145.00	0.00	145.00
359	P BRIDGET'S PLACE	2012	159.50	0.00	159.50
359	P BRIDGET'S PLACE	2013	171.36	0.00	171.36
359	P BRIDGET'S PLACE	2014	185.60	0.00	185.60
359	P BRIDGET'S PLACE	2015	198.65	0.00	198.65
359	P BRIDGET'S PLACE	2016	203.73	0.00	203.73
99	P BUTTERFIELD, LINDA	2012	256.30	0.00	256.30
99	P BUTTERFIELD, LINDA	2013	276.64	0.00	276.64
99	P BUTTERFIELD, LINDA	2014	298.24	0.00	298.24
99	P BUTTERFIELD, LINDA	2015	319.21	0.00	319.21
99	P BUTTERFIELD, LINDA	2016	327.37	0.00	327.37
201	P CAIN & SONS EQUIPMENT	2016	42.15	0.00	42.15
305	P GERARD, ROBERT G & ANITA L	2009	149.48	113.24	36.24
305	P GERARD, ROBERT G & ANITA L	2010	149.48	0.00	149.48
305	P GERARD, ROBERT G & ANITA L	2011	148.00	0.00	148.00
305	P GERARD, ROBERT G & ANITA L	2012	162.80	0.00	162.80
305	P GERARD, ROBERT G & ANITA L	2013	175.84	0.00	175.84
90	P MASSE, MATTHEW	2016	35.13	0.00	35.13
99	P MORNEAU, PAUL J	2005	274.35	0.00	274.35
99	P MORNEAU, PAUL J	2006	292.95	0.00	292.95
99	P MORNEAU, PAUL J	2007	200.38	0.00	200.38
99	P MORNEAU, PAUL J	2008	214.36	0.00	214.36
99	P MORNEAU, PAUL J	2009	235.33	0.00	235.33
99	P MORNEAU, PAUL J	2010	235.33	0.00	235.33
99	P MORNEAU, PAUL J	2011	233.00	0.00	233.00
314	P NOLL, ETHAN E.	2008	69.00	0.00	69.00
314	P NOLL, ETHAN E.	2009	75.75	0.00	75.75
314	P NOLL, ETHAN E.	2010	75.75	0.00	75.75
314	P NOLL, ETHAN E.	2011	75.00	0.00	75.00
314	P NOLL, ETHAN E.	2012	82.50	0.00	82.50
314	P NOLL, ETHAN E.	2013	89.60	0.00	89.60
314	P NOLL, ETHAN E.	2014	96.00	0.00	96.00
314	P NOLL, ETHAN E.	2015	102.75	0.00	102.75
314	P NOLL, ETHAN E.	2016	105.38	0.00	105.38
352	P NORTHERN QUALITY CONCRETE LLC	2012	37.40	0.00	37.40
262	P WILLOUGHBY, MILTON	2013	23.52	0.00	23.52
261	P WW PRECISION MACHINERY INC	2011	560.00	307.63	252.37
261	P WW PRECISION MACHINERY INC	2012	567.60	0.00	567.60
261	P WW PRECISION MACHINERY INC	2013	605.92	0.00	605.92
261	P WW PRECISION MACHINERY INC	2014	650.24	0.00	650.24
Total for 42 Accounts:			8,783.22	476.73	8,306.49

UNPAID REAL ESTATE TAXES

As of February 28, 2018

Acct		Name ----	Year	Original Tax	Payment / Adjustments	Amount Due
71	L	BAILEY, PAULA	2016	1,253.20	0.00	1,253.20
2311	L	BARTLETT, RICHARD & LYNNE	2016	2,238.07	0.00	2,238.07
92	L	BATCHELDER, DANIELLE	2016	871.05	0.00	871.05
249	L	BATCHELDER, DOUGLASS	2016	1,262.03	0.00	1,262.03
117	L	BECKWITH, ALEX & VICKY	2016	840.18	2.71	837.47
854	L	BIBBER, LINWOOD	2016	2,014.71	0.00	2,014.71
1201	L	BIBBER, LINWOOD E.	2016	3,729.46	0.00	3,729.46
163	L	BLUMBERG, SARA "HEIRS"	2016	1,592.27	0.00	1,592.27
3280	L	BOUCHARD, THOMAS P	2015	501.39	-29.24	530.63
3280	L	BOUCHARD, THOMAS P	2016	512.24	0.00	512.24
2287	L	BOURGET, BRUCE K & MARY N	2016	1,319.15	0.00	1,319.15
265	L	BROCK, CARL	2016	71.52	0.00	71.52
268	L	BROCK, CARL	2016	152.81	0.00	152.81
2519	L	BROCK, CARL	2016	227.49	0.00	227.49
2520	L	BROCK, CARL	2016	263.35	0.00	263.35
2972	L	BROCK, CARL	2016	176.26	0.00	176.26
272	L	BROCK, CARL & AMY	2016	108.13	0.00	108.13
273	L	BROCK, CARL & AMY	2016	319.00	0.00	319.00
270	L	BROCK, CARLETON E & AMY L	2016	74.45	0.00	74.45
271	L	BROCK, CARLETON E & AMY L	2016	332.89	0.00	332.89
2581	L	BROCK, CARLETON E & AMY L	2016	227.49	0.00	227.49
2582	L	BROCK, CARLETON E & AMY L	2016	157.21	0.00	157.21
2679	L	BROCK, CARLETON E & AMY L	2016	1,180.74	0.00	1,180.74
2680	L	BROCK, CARLETON E & AMY L	2016	176.95	0.00	176.95
2618	L	BROCK, CARLTON	2016	259.65	0.00	259.65
3076	L	BROCK, CURT	2016	286.08	0.00	286.08
2480	L	BURNS, RICHARD	2016	2,997.29	0.00	2,997.29
1524	L	BUTTERFIELD, LINDA	2016	2,459.17	0.00	2,459.17
1528	L	BUTTERFIELD, LINDA	2016	1,914.44	0.00	1,914.44
1082	L	C.I.S. ENTERPRISES, LLC.	2016	1,681.60	0.00	1,681.60
1302	L	CAIN, RICHARD B JR	2016	2,954.82	0.00	2,954.82
1203	L	CHANG, HUICHEN	2016	1,321.37	0.00	1,321.37
456	L	CLOWES, HARLAN A	2016	575.26	0.00	575.26
447	L	CONARY, CRAIG D.	2015	1,120.80	-35.80	1,156.60
447	L	CONARY, CRAIG D.	2016	1,147.00	0.00	1,147.00
512	L	CROSBY, HOWARD E	2016	486.87	0.00	486.87
513	L	CROSBY, HOWARD E	2016	886.45	0.00	886.45
3075	L	DEBLOIS, CARLEE	2016	660.18	0.00	660.18
2579	L	DUTTON, TIMOTHY	2016	412.59	41.43	371.16
1137	L	EWING, PETER	2016	715.13	0.00	715.13
317	L	FARRINGTON, MATTHEW F.	2016	741.35	0.00	741.35
765	L	FIELD, JOHN P & MARIETTA F	2016	444.93	0.00	444.93
454	L	FINLEY, MICHAEL O	2016	679.21	0.00	679.21

UNPAID REAL ESTATE TAXES

As of February 28, 2018

3428	L	FROST, ROGER	2016	153.53	0.00	153.53
3374	L	GASPAR, KRISTY	2016	170.93	0.00	170.93
2777	L	GIDNEY, ADAM J	2016	1,256.17	0.00	1,256.17
2099	L	GRAY, PATRICIA C & CHARLES H	2016	1,309.65	267.61	1,042.04
1905	L	GREENLEAF, IVERS	2016	630.89	0.00	630.89
1017	L	HEMPHILL-JOSEPH, GRETA	2016	1,111.21	0.00	1,111.21
1820	L	HOWARD, KEITH W. & LISA A.	2016	1,043.08	0.00	1,043.08
1132	L	HUTCHISON, BRIAN KEITH	2016	581.12	286.29	294.83
3136	L	IBBITSON, THOMAS S.	2016	258.26	0.00	258.26
3269	L	JOSE, JODY	2016	1,062.18	470.92	591.26
1153	L	JOSEPH, FRANCIS E, TRUSTEE	2016	1,317.68	0.00	1,317.68
723	L	JOSEPH, GRETA	2016	752.43	0.00	752.43
2936	L	JURDAK, STEVEN	2016	741.42	0.00	741.42
2429	L	KARTMAN, MICHAEL J SR	2016	644.01	0.00	644.01
2642	L	KENT, FRANK	2016	248.70	0.00	248.70
2780	L	KNOWLES, DOUGLAS & MICHELLE	2016	316.90	0.00	316.90
1223	L	LAJOIE, BRIAN	2016	1,010.10	847.17	162.93
1608	L	LIVINGSTONE, MARYANNE	2016	1,688.92	0.00	1,688.92
1311	L	LONDON, KENT G & LORI B	2016	1,702.81	0.00	1,702.81
1972	L	LUCZKO, CHARLENE TIFFANY & KEVIN	2016	588.43	0.00	588.43
1545	L	MASON, LEVI	2016	687.25	0.00	687.25
2885	L	MCCAUSLAND, CRAIG	2016	1,007.23	0.00	1,007.23
2318	L	MCKEE, DAREN L & MELISA L	2016	792.73	0.00	792.73
2529	L	MCNEIL, WILLIAM	2016	576.71	312.72	263.99
1489	L	MICHAUD, PETER & SALLY	2016	1,571.85	0.00	1,571.85
1523	L	MORNEAU, PAUL J	2016	226.74	0.00	226.74
1527	L	MORNEAU, PAUL J	2016	1,721.08	0.00	1,721.08
1593	L	NOLL, ETHAN	2016	993.97	0.00	993.97
2934	L	NOLL, ETHAN	2016	282.17	0.00	282.17
77	L	OVERLOCK, TODD	2015	1,059.29	-29.24	1,088.53
77	L	OVERLOCK, TODD	2016	1,084.08	0.00	1,084.08
2523	L	PEASLEE, DANIEL	2016	2,176.44	0.00	2,176.44
2903	L	PICARD, WAYNE	2016	258.04	0.00	258.04
1814	L	RATTE, JOANNE	2016	726.78	0.00	726.78
2910	L	RICHARDS, JEFF & MICHELLE	2016	155.69	0.00	155.69
1865	L	RICHARDS, PATRICIA A	2016	346.12	0.00	346.12
1866	L	RICHARDS, REBECCA	2016	897.35	0.00	897.35
1303	L	RONCO, EILEEN LINDBERG & JAMES F JR	2016	1,513.89	0.00	1,513.89
1997	L	SHIPLEY, EUGENE E SR & JR	2016	1,207.16	295.30	911.86
2980	L	SMITH, BERTELLE & KIMBERLY	2016	279.45	0.00	279.45
2065	L	SPAULDING, JESSIE A.	2016	113.98	0.00	113.98
2064	L	SPAULDING, WILLIAM H.	2016	2,016.93	0.00	2,016.93
2073	L	SPICER, JILL	2016	756.62	0.00	756.62
458	L	SPRAGUE, HAROLD A. & JODI L.	2016	622.19	281.50	340.69
3253	L	STONE ROAD CORPORATION	2016	372.17	0.00	372.17

UNPAID REAL ESTATE TAXES

As of February 28, 2018

3255	L	STONE ROAD CORPORATION	2016	361.92	0.00	361.92
3256	L	STONE ROAD CORPORATION	2016	382.42	0.00	382.42
1811	L	SUGA, LINDA	2016	1,359.44	176.46	1,182.98
2128	L	SUGA, LINDA	2016	1,284.76	0.00	1,284.76
1571	L	SUGA, RICHARD J	2016	258.89	0.00	258.89
2576	L	SUGA, RICHARD J	2016	282.38	0.00	282.38
2119	L	SUGA, RICHARD J.	2016	436.84	0.00	436.84
2127	L	SUGA, RICHARD J. & RHONA R.	2016	2,584.98	0.00	2,584.98
2457	L	SUGA, RICHARD JOSEPH	2016	758.94	0.00	758.94
2172	L	THOMPSON, PETER	2016	1,151.45	0.00	1,151.45
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	1997	175.74	-11.98	187.72
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	1998	323.32	30.50	292.82
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	1999	333.10	-12.25	345.35
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2000	380.14	-12.93	393.07
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2001	396.09	-12.93	409.02
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2002	405.29	-5.00	410.29
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2003	442.38	-12.64	455.02
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2004	401.51	-12.64	414.15
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2005	363.35	0.00	363.35
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2006	382.04	-8.32	390.36
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2007	294.44	0.00	294.44
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2008	305.37	-8.54	313.91
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2008	16,087.40	-8.54	16,095.94
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2009	905.45	0.00	905.45
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2010	894.63	-8.75	903.38
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2011	885.66	0.00	885.66
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2012	977.03	0.00	977.03
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2013	998.62	-9.74	1,008.36
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2014	1,026.19	0.00	1,026.19
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2015	1,096.35	0.00	1,096.35
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2016	1,122.21	0.00	1,122.21
243	L	WATERHOUSE, JASON M.	2016	630.89	0.00	630.89
2307	L	WEEKS, RONALD A	2016	2,741.73	0.00	2,741.73
2310	L	WELCH, PAMELA	2016	1,651.49	0.00	1,651.49
2382	L	WOOD, SHANE	2016	743.60	0.00	743.60
2451	L	WOOD, SHANE	2016	756.07	0.00	756.07
2487	L	WOOD, SHANE	2016	105.90	0.00	105.90
2488	L	WOOD, SHANE	2016	94.18	0.00	94.18
2384	L	WOOLEY, MARCIA L.	2016	885.69	0.00	885.69
2386	L	WOOLEY, MARCIA L.	2016	482.33	0.00	482.33
2447	L	YEATON, SANDRA J & JEFFREY A	2016	582.51	0.00	582.51

Total for 129 Accounts:

125,113.28

2,794.07

122,319.21

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

CATHERINE COYNE Registrar

SANITARY DISTRICT

RAY BRETON ~ Chair

The Vassalboro Sanitary District board members – Al Roy, Lee Trahan, Becky Goodrich, Paul Mitnik, and chair-person Raymond Breton – are still working with Richard Green and Dan Marks, Hoyle and Tanner Engineering, along with Chuck Applebee, Water Quality and Compliance. Also, Vassalboro Town Manager Mary Sabins, DOT, Rural Development/USDA, and many others are all working hard to have the new pumping stations hooked up to Winslow at the Dunbar road, thus closing the three filter beds in Vassalboro. The project will go out for bid late summer/early fall of 2018 and a construction company will be picked later in the fall. It may start then and plans to finish in 2019, early 2020. This will be a big plus for Vassalboro. I would like to thank everyone involved with this project. We meet the third Thursday every month at 6:00 P.M. at the Vassalboro Sanitary District.



Photo by Jan Clowes



Photo by Cathy Coyne

L – R Mary Morneau, Deborah Giroux, Linda Kingdon, Glenys Michaud, Margaret Hemphill, Molly Melrose and Donna Jacobs

I am pleased to submit my Voter Registrar report to the Selectmen and to the residents of Vassalboro.

The Municipal Election was held on June 13, 2017. A Special Municipal Election was held on November 7, 2017 electing John Melrose, filling the expired term of Philip Haines, recently passed, whose term would have expired in June, 2018.

The State General/Referendum Election was held on November 7, 2017. There were 1110 ballots cast.

The total number of active voters as of March 1, 2018 is 3201 with the following party affiliation breakdown:

Democrats: 916; Republicans: 986; Green: 154; Unenrolled: 1138; Libertarian: 7

No absentee ballots can be issued after the Thursday before any election unless the voter signs an application, designed by the Secretary of State, stating one of the following reasons for requesting an absentee ballot after the deadline:

- An unexpected absence from the municipality during the entire time the polls are open on election day;
- A physical disability; or
- An incapacity or illness that has resulted in the voter's being unable to leave home or a treatment facility.

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

KEN MASON ~ Sheriff

The Kennebec County Sheriff's Office is pleased to make the following report regarding the services we provided to the people of Kennebec County in 2017. These services include the Law Enforcement Division, Corrections' Services, Civil Process, Court and Transport Divisions. We provided many regional assets to our communities including Drug Investigations, K-9, Dive Team, Sex Offender Registry, Veterans Advocacy, and Accident Reconstruction.

In 2017, twenty-one Deputy Sheriffs serving in the Law Enforcement Division both in full-time and part-time capacities logged 32,000 calls for service. As a result, deputies made 682 arrests, issued 759 traffic summonses, and responded to 628 motor vehicle accidents. Deputy Sheriffs also responded to 407 alarms, 161 domestic disturbances, and assisted other agencies 746 times. Deputies and Detectives made 80 drug seizures, 26 of which were opiate related.

Deputy Nate McNally resigned his position within the patrol division, taking a patrol deputy position with the Androscoggin Sheriff's Office. We wish Nate and his family well at their new agency.

Tad Nelson of Pittston filled the open patrol deputy position vacated by Deputy McNally. Tad was a part-time deputy with our agency and a full-time contract Somerset County Sheriff's Office patrol deputy in the Town of Madison. He will be attending the full-time Maine Criminal Justice Academy in January of 2018. Good to have you on board, Tad.

Our Civil Process deputies serve legal documents on behalf of attorneys, the courts, citizens, local and state government, landlords and other entities. In 2017, the four civil deputies received over 6,500 requests for service in Kennebec County. Some of the services included civil summons & complaints, foreclosures, evictions, small claims, child support notices from the State and enforcement of court orders and writs to name a few.

On December 31, 2017, Laurier "Joe" Brunelle retired after 15 years of loyal and dedicated service to the Kennebec County Sheriff's Office Civil Division. His retirement leaves a big gap in all of our lives and hearts. We wish you the best in your retirement, Joe!

The correctional facility supervisory staff took on many changes in 2017. We welcomed back Captain Richard "Rich" Wurlpel as the Correctional Administrator. His correctional knowledge and risk management skills will benefit the staff, inmates and Kennebec County residents.

Bryan Slaney was promoted to lieutenant and assumed the position of Assistant Correctional Administrator. Cory Goodchild was promoted to Staff Sergeant, Kurt Karlsson and Ivano Stefanizzi to sergeant. Duane Rood and Valerie Grant were promoted to corporal assuming the duties of evening and midnight correctional supervisors.

During the past year, our Correctional Facility managed 2,955 inmates, 257 less than 2016. The offenses committed by defendants included everything from Burglaries to Homicides. Substance abuse and the proper treatment of citizens with mental illness continue to be two primary concerns at the Correctional Facility.



China Lake

Photo by Jan Clowes

With the help from many members of the Kennebec County delegation, we were able to secure funding for the CARA (Criminogenic Addiction Recovery Academy). We completed 4 CARA program courses helping 32 inmates with the treatment and recovery process.

Inmates at the Kennebec County Correctional Facility are asked to work and earn time off their sentences if applicable. Inmates who are considered to be a risk to the community work inside the facility cleaning and cooking, while others are supervised on outside projects. For every two days worked, one day is reduced from their sentence, resulting in a \$401,213 bed day savings to the citizens of Kennebec County. Throughout 2017, inmates worked 8,642 community service hours, valued at approximately \$77,787. Our inmates raised 31,458 pounds of produce and gleaned 1,335 pounds of produce for the inmate kitchen, area food pantries, churches, homeless shelters, schools and elder programs in 2017.

In 2017 the new T-Unit was completed and we began housing up to 21 inmates in that direct supervision unit. Having this block open for inmate housing has nearly eliminated the need to board prisoners at another facility, saving the taxpayers a substantial amount of money.

We are committed to providing innovative programs to reduce crimes, assist victims, and to provide enhanced public safety. We acknowledge the ever-growing opiate addiction problem nationwide and have committed to partnerships at the Federal, State and Local levels to combat this problem. Our approach is aggressive enforcement, education, treatment and recovery for those afflicted with this horrible addiction.

Another problem facing law enforcement throughout our great nation is distracted driving. Highway fatalities and serious injuries continue to soar as a result of individuals using electronic devices when operating a motor vehicle. Please do not be a statistic or make others a statistic because of carelessness.

As your Sheriff, and moving forward in 2018, my focus will remain on my staff, risk management, and serving my constituents in Kennebec County.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

JANE E. AIUDI ~ Chair

During this past year the committee has worked very hard to continue to attain the goals that were established by the Board of Selectman when they reestablished this committee several years ago.

The surveying and marking of gravesites in the new addition to the Cross Hill Cemetery was completed. The Boy Scouts undertook a project to remove the broken down fence at the Methodist Church Cemetery.

The town is incredibly fortunate to have a fellow Vassalboro resident step forward and volunteer to do repair and cleaning work in some of the town's cemeteries. She has been trained in workshops of the Maine Old Cemetery Association and has undertaken several projects throughout this past summer in some of the older, less well maintained cemeteries in town. She also agreed to become a member of our committee.

We have once again submitted a grant proposal, orchestrated by our town manager. We continue to hope that we are closer to achieving our goal of computerizing all of the towns cemetery records and making them available not only to town officials, but to genealogists via the internet. The funding decision will be made sometime in March 2018.

The committee continues its commitment to maintain the town's cemeteries through mowing, cleaning and repair of stones as resources allow. Plans for the upcoming year include the repair and straightening of several stones in the Cross Hill Cemetery along with the ongoing care and maintenance of our cemeteries.

VASSALBORO CONSERVATION COMMISSION

BETSY POULIN ~ Chair



Photo by Betsy Poulin

Invasive plant species workshop with the Alewife Restoration Initiative on the Outlet Stream

The Vassalboro Conservation Commission helps residents better enjoy, protect and plan for the Town's natural resources and open areas. Several projects have been in the forefront this year including trail improvements and participation in China Lake's Outlet Stream alewife restoration projects.

The Town Forest, behind the Bog Road Recreational Fields, has been an underutilized resource which the Commission has been working to improve. Last year signage was added to the area and this year improvements to the pathways continue. Trails were cleared of fallen trees, branches and even bush-hogged to cut back encroaching brush. Erskine Academy's TLC Club (Teens Leading and Learning Through Community Service) helped improve trails with gravel at culvert crossings, removal of rotten bog-bridging and construction of new hemlock plank bog-bridging. Thank you to the TLC Club!

Two other local trail and conservation lands in Vassalboro were the focus of Eagle Scout projects. The Annie Sturgis Sanctuary, managed by the New England Wildflower Society, is 40 acres of protected land on the Kennebec River, accessed from Cushnoc Road. Maverick Hilton Lowery significantly improved trails and bridges for safe access. The Seawards Mills Conservation Area, owned by the Kennebec Land

Trust, accessed from Seaward Mills Road, benefited from new benches, trash removal, and trail and erosion control improvements by Stephen Csengery. Thank you to our local Eagle Scouts!

Conservation Commission members have been closely following and participating in the planning process for the Alewife Restoration Initiative projects along the Outlet Stream. The removal of the Masse Dam was the first visible step in a project to re-introduce alewives to China Lake. Fishway installation, dam removals, removal of invasive plants and installation of native plants are in the works along the stream. The Alewife Restoration Initiative and the Conservation Commission held an invasive plant species identification and mapping event in May at the East Vassalboro Grange. A follow-up invasive plant species removal work day also occurred in the Masse Dam area.

Members of the Commission include David Jenney, Steve Jones, Holly Weidner, Dylan Dillaway and Betsy Poulin. The ordinance allows for up to seven members, so please contact the Town Office if you are interested in serving! All meetings are open to the public and are held on Thursday nights of every other month at the Town Office.



Photo by Betsy Poulin

Installation of new bog bridging at the Town Forest Trails with Erskine Academy's TLC Club (Teens Leading and Learning Through Community Service)

VASSALBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JAN CLOWES ~ President



Paul Duplessie

The Vassalboro Historical Society said goodbye to long-time friend, board member, and volunteer, Paul Duplessie this year. We were honored to have Paul as part of the VHS family for decades and his memory will continue on at all of our buildings, as we see his work everywhere. Rest in Peace, Paul.

As part of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act in 2016, Vassalboro Historical Society received one of three nationwide grants from the USDA and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Don Bassett, freelance artist and former Display Coordinator at the Maine State Museum, volunteered to become the display coordinator of “Remembered Vision,” and the magic began. Our display opened in June, 2017, and will remain in place for the foreseeable future. Open Houses will be held from 1-4pm the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month from June through October. If you are unable to stop by during that time, contact the museum at 207-923-3505 to arrange a tour.



Remembered Vision display

Board members and authors in their own right, Esther Bernhardt and Vicki Schadt, compiled and edited the Anthology of Vassalboro Tales, a collection of “more than eighty stories, the efforts of nearly fifty authors—young, aging and ancient...” The culmination of many volunteer hours and much energy invested by Esther & Vicki, with the cost of printing paid for by VHS, the Anthology serves as a fundraiser for the Society. If you have not purchased your copy, it is available for \$19.99 at the Olde Mill Shop, Vassalboro Town Office, and Mane Management, among other places. You can also contact a board member or the Society at 207-923-3505 to get your copy.

Thanks to FAVOR (Friends Advocating for Vassalboro’s Older Residents) and the Rockland based non-profit

WindowDressers, the Society will be a little less drafty. Board members and volunteers joined together at the Olde Mill to make 267 frames for 26 customers. Vassalboro Historical Society’s window inserts will go not only in the office and library, but the massive windows in the front and back rooms. The largest inserts measured 105’x 42’. For convenience, most of the inserts will be left in place year-round (removing one from each room to allow for circulation of air during the warmer months). Dave Bolduc, Building & Grounds Director, took the lead for the Society and was prepared to put in four eight-hour days to get the job done. Thanks to the great coordination and the number of volunteers, the job was done in two days. Thank you to all who participated, board members who serve on the FAVOR committee, town office staff, individuals who went for the training, members and volunteers who joined in the set-up, work crews, and clean-up of the entire process. We will stay a little warmer for years to come and think of you with gratitude!



Dave Bolduc

The Society meets every two months. Membership is not limited to Vassalboro residents; it is open to all who are “interested in the history of Vassalboro, Maine,” upon request and payment of annual dues.

Membership begins on January 1 each year. Our membership classes include:

\$12	Active (Under 65)	\$8	Active (65 and Older)
\$25	Sustaining	\$125	Charter
\$150	Lifetime	\$200	Patron

If you are interested in helping the Vassalboro Historical Society “celebrate and protect the heritage of our community” please send your name, address, contact phone number and payment to:

Vassalboro Historical Society, P.O. Box 43, East Vassalboro, ME 04935

We have much to offer everyone, whether long-time residents or newcomers to the area – everyone can contribute to the Society’s work. You are all welcome!

VASSALBORO FOOD STATION PANTRY

CINDY FERLAND ~ Executive Director



Photo by Donna Martin

Maine Savings Federal Credit Union presenting a check to the pantry.

We had another productive and successful year at the food pantry with 27 hard-working volunteers, who dedicated over 5,020+ combined volunteer hours to serve the less fortunate Vassalboro residents.

As of December 31, 2017, we have 159 registered Vassalboro families. (79 seniors, 197 adults, & 12 children). The pantry is assisting between 45-50 families a week. In 2017, we gave out 977 heaping banana boxes of food and hygiene items from the USDA program, which provides about 1 week of meals for a family, and 2,534 heaping banana boxes from the weekly program. In addition to the weekly and monthly distribution we also assist with Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas dinner fixings.

Our Source of Funds come from about 20% Government-USDA-food only, 20 % self-earned through fundraising, and 60% donations/grants.

The pantry is open every Thursday from 11 to noon for any Vassalboro resident in need of assistance. Words cannot express how grateful the VFSP is to the very hard working dedicated, kind-hearted employees at the Maine Savings Federal Credit Union of North Vassalboro, the words Thank You doesn't feel like it's enough for all you do for the food pantry.

Also a huge THANK YOU goes out to some more generous and loyal supporters of the VFSP in 2017: Mid State Machine Foundation, Town of Vassalboro, Ray Haskell Ford of Oakland for sponsoring our pantry van every year. Jill & Mike Pleau, Dana Sumner, the two Hannaford Stores and Shaw's of Augusta for donating every Thursday, Country Kitchen Thrift Store of Waterville for donations weekly, Vassalboro Riverside Congregation Church, Vassalboro United Methodist Church, Tom Richards for weekly trash removal, JMG at Erskine Academy, JMG at Vass. Comm. School, Danny Wacekens and Sappi of Skowhegan, John & Elizabeth Reuthe, Cheryl & David Sherwood, William Browne, Arthur & Linda Kingdon, John & Molly Melrose, Jim & Rachel Kilbride, Ferris Market, Country Store, Togus VA Hospital of Augusta Employees, Center Vassalboro Baptist Church, Full Circle Farm-B & J Welch, Vassalboro Rural Mail Carriers-Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, Evelyn & James Ashton, MOFA, George Jones, Mark Jones, Kim & Gary Wright, Ron & Kathleen Dunn, Greg & Rose

Marie Fortin, Brenda Davis of Old Town, Ray Breton, Don & Lisa Breton, Edward Noel, Gary Clark, Sara & Zoe Gaffney, Fields of Green, Linda & Lauchlin Titus, Wayne Bowers, Girls Scouts of Vassalboro, B&B Farms, and many more thoughtful anonymous donors.

For more information about the VFSP or to volunteer please call 873-7375, leave

a message. You can also check us out on Face book. Don't forget to click the "LIKE" icon so we can keep the page going and you can get our updates.

The Board Members are: Cindy Ferland, Albert Ferland, Diane Bailey, David Sherwood, Cheryl Sherwood, Josi Haskell, and Jennifer Brockway.



JMG students Paeshance & Haley Haskell

Photo by Josi Haskell

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

DONNA L. LAMBERT ~ Library Director

I would like to honor the people that we lost this past year in our library community. Not only friends, they also were patrons, volunteers and supporters of the library. In memory of Paul Duplessie, Phil Haines, and Betts Kiralis. They will be fondly remembered and greatly missed.

Last fall Harry retired from his position as Library Assistant. The Board, our volunteers, and I would like to thank him for his 3 years of service at the library. We welcome our new Assistant Librarian, Bryan Stanley. Bryan has previous experience working in public libraries. He is currently working on a degree in Library and Information Services from the University of Maine at Augusta. Please stop by and welcome Bryan to the community!



Photo by Donna Lambert

Browsers at the Annual Book Sale

Part of the mission of the Vassalboro Public Library is to be a friendly gathering place for the residents of the community. Some of the many services that we provide include loaning books, dvds, audio books, magazines and even a telescope; computers to use; free wireless internet; printing and copying documents and more! Feel free to stop by and take advantage of these services or just drop by to say hello! Come enjoy the warmth of the wood stove in winter and assist with our community jigsaw puzzles. You are always welcome!

FY 2016-2017 brought approximately 5600 patron visits and circulation of approximately 11, 500 items. Over 400 patrons used the three public computers for internet access. Many more took advantage of our free Wi-Fi using personal laptops or other mobile devices. We also offer full color printing. If an item is not in our

collection, we can access it through Inter-Library Loan (ILL) as we are part of the state-wide Delivery System. We filled over 316 ILL transactions for our patrons. We continue with the work of converting to the electronic circulation and catalog program. We offer meeting space and hosted several meetings throughout the year. We had 2 programs for adults with an attendance of 25. In June, we ended the fiscal year collaborating with David Theriault at the Vassalboro Community School on the Summer Reading Festival. The library hosted 4 programs that day, 1 for young adults and 3 for children with 73 people attending.

We are grateful for the outstanding team of volunteers who help us out all year. Logging in over 1,300 hours of time donated to the Library, they are vital to making it all happen. Their work is an invaluable contribution to the library and the community as well. It isn't possible for us to list everyone who contributes to the library, but the following people deserve special recognition for all they do: Sylvia Michaud, Lore & Chuck Ferguson, Irene Forster, Myrna & Paul Duplessie, Sue & Phil Haines, Debbie Clarke, Susan Manning, Valerie Sugden, Helen LaFleur, Art & Linda Kingdon, Susan & Ken Taylor, Susan Bouchard, Liz McMahon, Russell Smith, Susan Kiralis, Jim Ashton, Jody & Bernie Welch, Victor Esposito and the JMG students, Greg Seamans, David Shipman, Deb Crump, Vicki Limberger, Ann White, and still coming to spend time with us whenever she can, is our cherished volunteer, Eleanor Getchell. We thank you all for everything you do!

We are proud to maintain the services and value which has been part of the Vassalboro community for over a hundred years. We strive to provide personalized service to our patrons and projects. Our annual Book & Bake Sale and Silent Auction gets bigger every year! It is always the Saturday after Labor Day and a highlight of Vassalboro Days. Mark your calendar now to come and search for bargains as you support the library! Check out our website, visit us on Facebook, search the online catalog from the comfort of your home and stop by the library often. We are open Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:30 – 8 pm and Saturdays from 10 am – 6 pm. We welcome our patron visits and are looking forward to another active year!



CODES DEPARTMENT

DICK DOLBY ~ CEO/LPI

The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) has assumed the duties formerly handled by the

Department of Public Safety; Bureau of Building Codes and Standards. The MUBEC family of codes was updated from the 2009 series of codes to the 2015 series. With these came a well-illustrated document that is one of the most useful tools when working with contractors and home-owners. The state will provide electronic versions to each of the communities required to enforce MUBEC through a financial agreement with the International Code Council that gives each community a voice in future code adoption issues along with membership in ICC.

The Maine Building Officials and Inspectors Association, (MBOIA) is a full ICC Chapter and is able to provide educational support with programs for CEO's state wide as well.

Last year saw the thorough review of the Vassalboro Shoreland Zoning requirements suggested by DEP. The proposed ordinance changes were presented to the Town Meeting after a joint meeting with the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen. With the approval of the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance those properties affected are able to take advantage of an increase in building size of up to 15%. As a result, the Planning Board has had several requests that have been presented and found favorable responses.

The Planning Board is working with me to review the Building Permit Ordinance in a similar manner. A joint meeting between the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen should allow the updated document to be presented for consideration at town meeting in June. There has been some minor confusion with one provision that on first reading of the ordinance seemed to authorize construction of a deck without a permit. While that is true for properties outside the Shoreland Zone it is not so in the Shoreland Zone.

Additionally, the maximum size of a deck without a permit jumps from 100 to 200 sq. ft., outside the Shoreland Zone only.

The community continues to see new housing starts, sixteen this year, one more than last year. Additionally, we see a number of properties undergoing renovations and additions. There is nothing I enjoy as much as seeing improvements and maintenance to existing housing stock.

Like most towns we have our share of properties that could use preventive maintenance, remember painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, counter tops and similar finish work are exempt from permit requirements. Repairing or replacing siding, or roofing, is maintenance (no permit) but no more than two (2) layers of shingles are allowed. When considering window replacements ask the contractor or supplier about "egress windows"; they are required for your safety. And keep an eye on your smoke detector, they need to be checked annually, and please consider adding a carbon monoxide detector if you don't already have one.

Some of our neighbors have taken notice of the latest craze in housing; Tiny Houses are now being permitted. The International Residential Code has added an appendix that discusses the allowances for smaller rooms and notes alternative methods that provide an acceptable level of safety.

The application of our ordinances occasionally requires property owners to be advised of issues that need to be addressed to comply with State and local regulations. Voluntary compliance is always more desirable, than the added costs to the property owner and the town.

ALEWIFE RESTORATION INITIATIVE

MATT STREETER ~ ARI Project Manager

The goal of the Alewife Restoration Initiative (ARI) is to remove obsolete dams and establish free fish passage at the Outlet Stream barriers that block access to China Lake. When the work is done an annual run of 800,000-950,000 adult river herring (alewives) will be able to freely make their way through the stream. Plans underway include engineering and design work for the construction of technical fishways at the China Lake Outlet Dam, the Box Mill and Ladd Dams, and the deconstruction of the Lombard Dam's spillway.



Contributed Photo

Youth Conservation Corps members water newly planted shrubs.

This year, project accomplishments were featured three times on the front page of the Town Line:

August 10, 2017: *Historic presence of alewives in China Lake's Outlet Stream reconfirmed*

Petitions and letters from 1798 and 1799 were unearthed in the Massachusetts Archives confirming that alewives made their way through Outlet Stream to China Lake. As was typical for the colonial period, smaller waterways like Outlet Stream were easier to control, and harnessed for power before larger rivers like the Kennebec.



Contributed Photo

Former Masse Dam site

November 9, 2017: *ARI to hold informational walk at Masse Sawmill*

The Alewife Restoration Initiative had announced the successful completion of the first of six dam projects on China Lake Outlet Stream—the deconstruction of the Masse Dam. Community members joined ARI partners for an informational nature walk to learn about the many ecological processes that are beginning to return the stream to natural habitat.

February 15, 2018: *Planting Maine's Native Wildflowers*

Science students at the Vassalboro Community School learned about native plant species and the vital roles native plants play in nature's food web, and the role alewives play in the food web. After the lesson each student received native seeds, pots and soil to plant their own Maine native plants. During the summer the plants will be moved to the site of the former Masse Dam where they will be cared for until the fall when students will plant their native wild plants at the site.

Many thanks to project partners and supporters who have helped us make great progress!

Water Quality on Vassalboro Lakes

By Frank Richards

Water quality is important to a community for many reasons. To begin with, it is just nice to see lakes and streams in a clear, natural condition. However, there is a more practical benefit.

Good water quality is important to the tax base, because properties on clear lakes usually have substantially higher valuations.

Shorefront homes are a good deal for a community. They tend to be on the high end of the scale. They require few services. Most are on private roads and don't get public road maintenance. Relatively limited numbers of students come from them, because so many are either for seasonal use or retirement.

Historically, water quality on Webber Pond, Three Mile Pond, and China Lake has been poor. In the 1980s, China Lake gave rise to the expression, "China Lake Syndrome", which refers to the development of severe algae blooms because too much phosphorus is coming into a lake from the surrounding watershed.

Many people have forgotten, because so much time has passed. However, 45 years ago, back in the 1970s, China was a deep, clear lake. Fishing for landlocked salmon was reportedly very good. Lake trout were also commonly available.

Webber and Three Mile also suffered from algae blooms for decades. These were so extreme that occasionally a septic odor whiffed off the water during the late summer months.

Until fairly recently, blooms typically began in July and persisted until September. Those two ponds were as green as pea soup for months at a time.

Today, water quality in all three lakes is being restored. This began in 1996 when the China Region Lakes Alliance (CRLA) was formed. Over a 20 year period of time, its erosion control (rip-rap) projects have transformed the shorelines.

Today, there are not as many sites on our lakes where erosion is an issue. Erosion is a significant source of phosphorus entering our lakes. Algae blooms arise when there is too much.

The three lake associations have also played an active role. These organizations tend to fly below radar, but along with CRLA they have been deeply involved with cleaning up Vassalboro's lakes.

Seasonal residents are good people, even if we don't know them very well. Many properties have been in families for generations. On Webber, one property has been in the same family going back into the early 1800s. Several have been in the same family for 3 generations.

Not very many seasonal residents participate in the larger community. They are only in town for a few months a year. However, they are extremely engaged with their lake's welfare.



Phil Haines at Webber Pond Dam

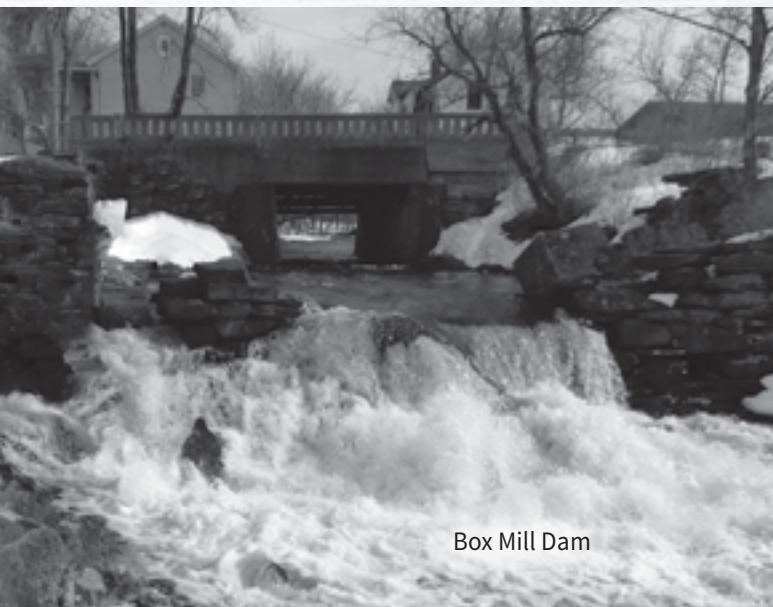
Photo by Frank Richards

The restoration of sea run alewives unexpectedly evolved as another way to improve water quality. That all began on Webber Pond in the late 1990s, when the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) began a statewide project.

Alewives were controversial back then. The Webber Pond Association heard all kinds of things about potential problems. It went along with the restoration somewhat reluctantly.

However, to everyone's surprise, including experienced scientists, a few years after alewives were introduced, Webber Pond cleared up for the first time in many decades. There are still occasional blooms, but it is a night and day difference.

Laboratory testing has confirmed that juvenile alewives sequester phosphorus and other nutrients in their bodily tissues, as they grow during the summer. They take it with them when they go back to the ocean.



Box Mill Dam

Photo by Frank Richards



Ladd Dam

Photo by Frank Richards

Each little fish is small, but in aggregate there are millions of them, tons and tons of biomass. It is evidently enough to offset excess phosphorus and suppress algae blooms.

Sea run alewives spawn in May. The adults return to the ocean soon afterwards. The juveniles grow in the pond until approximately September, when they out migrate back to the ocean.

During the spawning, adult alewives are harvested for use as lobster bait. Vassalboro receives a portion of the revenue. In recent years, that has been running at a little less than \$20K per year on Webber.

When a harvest is established on China Lake, the town's share of that revenue should eventually stabilize at between twice and three times as much.

In 2010, China Region Lakes Alliance saw that Webber had cleared and wanted to see if Three Mile Pond would also clear if alewives were introduced.

Seaward Mills Stream is the outlet to Three Mile Pond. Volunteers from the Three Mile Pond Association, the

believed alewives would also help China Lake. It approached Maine Rivers and the Sebasticook Land Trust for help.

Maine Rivers became the primary grant writer and manager for restoring fish passage to the China Lake outlet stream. That project is still ongoing.

With 6 dams, this was more complex than either Webber or Three Mile. However, it is anticipated that 2 dams will be removed and 4 fish ladders constructed by the end of 2020. Then, it will take a few more years for the run to stabilize.

Will establishing sea-run alewives restore China Lake to what it was centuries ago? No one can answer that, now. However, the early signs are promising.

For the first time since the late 1970s, China Lake has been substantially clear for the last two summers. This followed initial, small stockings of alewives. It was a surprise to all observers.

Based on experiences with Webber, Three Mile, and nearby Sebasticook Lake; the chances are good that China will return to being a clear water lake. However, five to ten years is the expected time frame.

Webber Pond and Three Mile Pond are already substantially clear during the summer. Fishing is good. The future of water quality on all three of Vassalboro's lakes looks good.

It is not known whether China can ever become a fishery for landlocked salmon and lake trout again. That will require returning oxygen to the bottom of the deepest parts of the lake, something that has never been accomplished before, anywhere.

However, if it comes to pass, if China Lake Syndrome can be completely reversed, that will be a subject of national attention by scientists.

None of this has happened by accident. China Region Lakes Alliance, the Webber Pond Association, the Three Mile Pond Association, and the China Lake Association have been working on it for a long time. Credit is also due to the Vassalboro Selectmen, who have been as supportive of lake restoration activities as anyone could ask them to be.



Ladd Dam

Photo by Landis Hudson

Department of Marine Resources, and the Kennebec Water District used hand tools to open up blocked areas of the stream. Fish passage was slowly established.

Three Mile Pond also cleared up. It replicated the experience on Webber. Because of replication, CRLA

CHINA REGION LAKES ALLIANCE

JIM HART ~ CRLA President

The China Region Lakes Alliance was formed in 1995 by the China Lake, Three Mile Pond, and Webber Pond Associations along with the Towns of China, Vassalboro, and Windsor and the Kennebec Water District with the mission to improve water quality in member lakes. The work done by the CRLA falls into 4 broad categories; technical assistance and design work for major erosion control projects, hands on work on smaller project done by our Youth Conservation Corp, no-charge land owner LakeSmart consultations, boat launch inspections to prevent the introduction of invasive water plants into our lakes, and supporting the alewife restoration initiative.

It was a prolific year for the Youth Conservation Corp. Led by Red Wilkens, the YCC tackled twenty (20) individual projects in 2017 – a record number – including eighteen (18) candidate sites for LakeSmart on China Lake, a weeklong re-vegetation project on The Outlet Stream in East Vassalboro to plant trees and bushes in riparian areas, and a weeklong rip-rap job at Webber Pond. The entire crew was plagued by a bout of poison ivy and hot muggy days which makes the feat even more incredible!

Another highlight was the deconstruction of Masse Dam on The Outlet Stream in East Vassalboro.

This is the first step towards restoring passage of alewife to China Lake. Maine Rivers and her partners are working hard to pull the pieces together.

An important task of the CRLA is the job of weekend prelaunch boat inspections to prevent the introduction of invasive plants into our lakes. Many lakes in the Midwest are unusable in the summers due to infestations of Eurasian Milfoil, an aggressive invasive aquatic plant. Other known milfoil containing lakes are nearby, including Belgrade Lakes unfortunately. If a plant such as Eurasian Milfoil were to get into a shallow lake such as Webber and Three Mile, the consequences would be serious. Early detect of invasive aquatic plants offers the best opportunity to nip it. This year, led by Ms. Mallory Chamberlain, the CBI conducted boat inspections at all four (4) boat launches on CRLA member lakes; including

1084 on China Lake, 98 on Three Mile Pond, and 460 on Webber Pond. Three hundred sixty six (366) plants fragments were found from these inspections; but, none were invasive. The boat inspection program is partially supported through a grant that is operated by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Three Mile Pond had better water quality but experienced an algae bloom nonetheless. China Lake experienced its finest water quality in 25 years, the Water Quality Manager at the Kennebec Water District told members of the China Lake Association at their annual meeting.



Contributed Photo

Masse Dam prior to removal.

Webber Pond water quality was poor – fair as reported by Mr. Charles Backenstose, Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program specialist. This is a scientifically based determination and is correct. Throughout open water season, these selfless VLMP volunteers conduct meticulous sampling using standardized methods and equipment in the center of our lakes. My assessment was not scientifically based, and I apologize for supplying misinformation. In truth, Webber Pond water quality is classified mesotrophic which means it has too much phosphorus and will support excess plant growth (i.e. algae).

PUBLIC WORKS

EUGENE FIELD ~ Road Commissioner

As Road Commissioner for the Town of Vassalboro it is a pleasure working with the Town Manager, staff, and citizens of Vassalboro.

In the summer of 2017, the Public Works crew prepared the roads to be paved by replacing culverts, ditching, and cutting brush and trees back on the various roads scheduled to be paved. The crew installed \$10,000.00 in culverts on various roads, and we did extensive work on the following list of roads:

- Taber Hill Road – from the Gray Road intersection to the Oak Grove intersection.
- Holman Day Road – all of it.
- Cushnoc Road – from Mill Hill intersection north to Route 201.
- Mill Hill – all of the paved section
- Webber Pond Road extension – all of it
- Cross Hill Road – from CMP Pole #79 to CMP pole #46 approximately 1.5 miles.
- Hunt Road – finished gravel section to the end of Town’s road.

The Town received a very good price on paving from B&B Paving of Hermon for \$51.72/ ton. This was a combined bid with Vassalboro and the Town of China. The roads listed below were all shimmed first and then surfaced with 1.25 inch of 12.5 mm mix except the Mill Hill Road which was just surfaced.

Paving cost:

Taber Hill Road.....	\$63,923.33
Holman Day Road.....	\$90,941.86
Cushnoc Road	\$45,262.24
Mill Hill Road.....	\$8,895.84
Webber Pond Road Extension.....	\$4,766.00
Cross Hill Road	\$105,479.62
Hunt Road	\$20,584.56
GRAND TOTAL	\$339,853.46



Photo by Mary Sabins

(L-R) Shawn Bragg, James Wentworth, Gene Field, & Shane Cole. Celebrating Gene’s 37th year on the job.

As of this writing, the paving plan for the summer of 2018 is still being worked out and we are establishing a budget for those roads.

Additionally, the public works crew put out shoulder gravel on the roads that were paved. We also started replacing various road signs that were outdated with signs that the Town received through a grant from Maine Local Roads. The public works crew cleaned up all the leaves and debris from all the cemeteries so they would be ready for the Contractor to mow them. The roadside mowing is done by contracting it out to Aggressive Cuts, with the first mowing in June and a second mowing in September.

We had a strong wind storm in October which took down a number of trees that had to be cleaned up. A lot of the trees had Central Maine Power lines under them which prolonged the cleanup. Even though the power is out we cannot remove the trees until Central Maine Power clears their lines. I want to thank the Fire Department for all their help during the October wind storm working with us clearing roads and putting up signs. It is greatly appreciated by us at the Public Works Department.

Lastly, I would like to thank my crew of James Wentworth, Shawn Bragg and Shane Cole for their dedication and hard work. If you have questions about any road project, please don’t hesitate to contact the Public Works Garage at 923-3985 or E- Mail at vasspublicworks@fairpoint.net



ERSKINE ACADEMY

MICHAEL McQUARRIE ~ Headmaster

It has been another enterprising year for Erskine Academy, your high school of choice that combines a private school education with the democratic ideal of a quality education for all.

In our 135th year, with our commitment to the success of every student affirmed by our accrediting agent, the New England Association of Secondary Schools (NEASC), we continued our efforts to improve our school, expand opportunities for learning, accelerate student achievement, and produce even better results. A few facts about Erskine Academy today are a testament to our vitality and value:

- With nearly 600 students in grades nine through twelve, we are the largest town academy in Maine to serve a nearly 100% local student body on a 100% school choice basis
- A 13:1 professional teacher to student ratio
- A 94% four-year graduation rate
- A dropout rate less than one percent
- Of 117 graduates in 2017, nearly 80% were accepted to higher or continuing education (now a five-year trend), many to highly selective colleges and universities
- The mean SAT scores for the Maine State Assessment administration for our class of 2017 are 12 points greater than the state average
- For a third consecutive year, we are one of seven Maine high schools to make the Washington Post's list of America's Most Challenging High Schools, a distinction based on the number of Advanced Placement courses and exams taken by our students
- 2017 KVAC Champions in girls soccer, baseball, and golf
- 2017 Maine Principal's Association Sportsmanship Awards in boys cross country, girls tennis, baseball, softball, and girls lacrosse

Although we have experienced an increase in private-pay and international students, we remain fully committed to our publicly-funded students by admitting all students from our eight sending towns that have completed the eighth grade and can benefit from our programs. To maintain this local heritage, for an eighth time we hosted nearly 250 area sixth graders for an early exposure to high school program designed to build their familiarity with and confidence in doing high school work.

Regardless of differences in residence, prior learning, interests, abilities, or personal circumstances and backgrounds, all of our students matter and belong. All who attend here experience a school program that blends traditional values with contemporary programs and best practices to become the most academically and personally prepared young people in the region.

Staffed by three teachers and two educational technicians, Erskine's Special Education program educates and provides specialized support to students eligible for such services through an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Valuing all students and believing they deserve a welcoming school and professional teachers who will build on their strengths, 20% of our students receive academic assistance or Special Education services to support their learning.

In our fifth year as a MELMAC Education Foundation school, we have increased students' preparedness and aspirations for continuing their education beyond high school, reduced barriers to accessing their higher education, and significantly reduced their need to take remedial courses once in college.

Now in its seventh year, our Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) program has increased student exposure to various forms of higher education and vocational trades programs and has taught essential work seeking, training, and employment retention skills. With 52 students pursuing a certificate in a work craft

or trade, our enrollment at the Capital Area Technical Center is second only to its host, Cony High School.

This past year, 140 students took one or more of our fifteen Advanced Placement courses, and 311 students took at least one of our eleven dual enrollment courses with nearby colleges including Kennebec Valley Community College, Thomas College, and Husson University taught here by our teachers. For their efforts in these early college experiences, nearly two-thirds of our graduates earned college credits while in high school, saving considerable dollars in college tuition.

Through our International Student program and American Field Service (AFS) club, we have helped our students gain understanding and interpersonal skills for living more globally and interdependently in a culturally diverse world. For a seventh time, AFS students made a humanitarian trip to Costa Rica to

Erskine began the 2016-17 school year by accepting and winning WGME 13/Fox 23's School Spirit Challenge, an eight-week food and fund drive to benefit Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine and our local food pantries.

In spearheading this effort, we engaged with our communities to provide a critical community service. More important, we collected 84,474 pounds of food, the equivalent of 70,395 meals for the food insecure, exceeding by several thousand pounds the combined amounts raised by the second and third place high schools. Through this important initiative, we put Erskine's values for stewardship, leadership, and relationships to work substantially and meaningfully.

build homes for impoverished families. Eye-opening experiences such as this fire the heart and mind and inspire our students to look beyond EA and the familiar to a world that truly needs them.

Erskine Academy reflects proudly and appreciatively on its 135 years of progress and performance. Since our founding in 1883, Erskine Academy has remained true to its mission while evolving to meet new demands, challenges, and uncertainties. Because there is no limit to what we can do, pursuing excellence and implementing our mission is a continuous and unyielding work in progress.

We give heartfelt appreciation to our alumni and friends who believe strongly enough in our values and results to give their time, talents, and financial donations to supplement our state-set tuition rate. Their investment permits us to invest in programs and enhancements beyond what can be supported through tuition alone and raises the expectations we have for ourselves.

We are grateful as well to our students, families, and sending communities for their confidence in and support for Erskine Academy. Together, we create a school and legacy that adheres to what we know is right and good for our young people and aids them in constructing a sturdy start for adulthood.

Thank you, Vassalboro residents, for sustaining high school choice for your young people and families, an opportunity for learning that is available to only 3% of Maine students, despite two-thirds of Maine voters agreeing that school choice programs should be open to all. Those parents who have exercised that choice to attend Erskine Academy—entrusting us with the intellectual and personal development of their children—inspire and honor us. In partnership with you, we look forward to new challenges and accomplishments in the year ahead.

More good things to come!

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

ERIC L. HALEY ~ Superintendent of AOS #92 ~ Vassalboro, Waterville and Winslow

Good evening everyone,

Vassalboro Community School says good-bye to our beloved Principal, Dianna Gram, this month. Dianna is finishing her 40th year in education, the past 24 at the Vassalboro Community School. During that time she has been the Special Education Director, the Assistant Principal and for the last 8 years Principal.

We have been blessed to have Dianna at the helm of our school. She is passionate about education and even more passionate about our children. Put those two passions together and you get magic and that is what Dianna brings to our school every day. She befriends all students and they her. My favorite time to arrive at the VCS is dismissal time. You always find Dianna in the halls with the students, waving, saying good-byes, hugging, high fiving, reminding them of what tomorrow brings and enjoying every minute of it. The smile on her face is ear to ear and her words to the students are as sincere as the Gettysburg Address.

I have always said there is an art and a science to being a good educator. We do a pretty good job of teaching the science in teacher preparation courses but the art is something within you and that can't be taught. Watching Dianna working with our children is like gazing at the Mona Lisa, a thing of beauty to behold but we have no idea how the artist created it!

With all of our heart Dianna we thank you for blessing the hallways of the VCS for the past 24 years and wish you nothing but long sunny days and short warm nights in your retirement. I end this tribute from another amazing artist, William Shakespeare, who once said, "Our life, exempt from public haunt, finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones and good in everything."

Contributed Photo



Dianna Gram

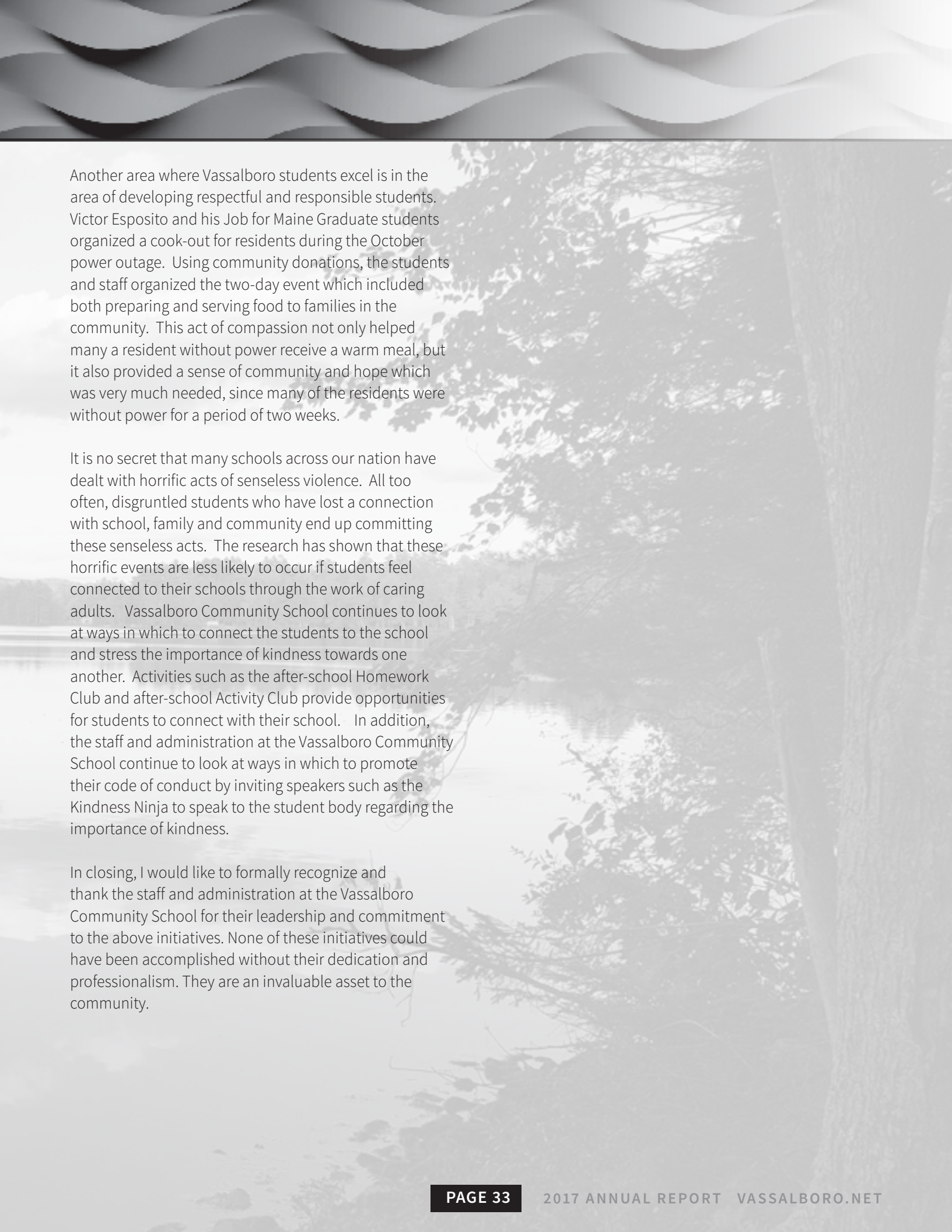
Every year's budget is a challenge to balance the needs of the children with the ability of the community to pay. This year's budget was no exception but hopefully we have found that balance and it is something you can support.

As always, I want to thank our School Board for their countless hours of volunteering to ensure a quality education for the children of Vassalboro. Chairman Kevin Levasseur along with Susan Tuthill, Libby Loiko, Jolene Gamage, and Jessica Clark deserve a great big thank-you from all of us. Their compassion and sincerity for helping build a quality pre-K through 8th grade school does not go unnoticed.

Assistant Superintendent, Peter Thiboutot, has highlighted some of the VCS curriculum/assessment work below. As you can see, it has been another busy year providing an appropriate and rigorous education for our students.

Peter Thiboutot Assistant Superintendent AOS 92

I am pleased to report that Vassalboro Community School continues to excel in the area of academics, as is evidenced by their 2017 Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) scores. The MEAs are used as a standardized measure to see how schools compare across the state in the areas of English, math and science in grades 3-8. Vassalboro students met or far exceeded state standards in the vast majority of the grades tested. These outcomes can be credited to an outstanding group of educators who work hard to provide students with a quality education. Staff have focused on the alignment of curriculum, the development of assessments, and improving instructional practice through professional development led by Mary Boyle (AOS 92 literacy and instructional specialist), along with the implementation of the Marzano teacher effectiveness model. The teachers continue to look at ways to increase student performance through staff development opportunities and in-service days.



Another area where Vassalboro students excel is in the area of developing respectful and responsible students. Victor Esposito and his Job for Maine Graduate students organized a cook-out for residents during the October power outage. Using community donations, the students and staff organized the two-day event which included both preparing and serving food to families in the community. This act of compassion not only helped many a resident without power receive a warm meal, but it also provided a sense of community and hope which was very much needed, since many of the residents were without power for a period of two weeks.

It is no secret that many schools across our nation have dealt with horrific acts of senseless violence. All too often, disgruntled students who have lost a connection with school, family and community end up committing these senseless acts. The research has shown that these horrific events are less likely to occur if students feel connected to their schools through the work of caring adults. Vassalboro Community School continues to look at ways in which to connect the students to the school and stress the importance of kindness towards one another. Activities such as the after-school Homework Club and after-school Activity Club provide opportunities for students to connect with their school. In addition, the staff and administration at the Vassalboro Community School continue to look at ways in which to promote their code of conduct by inviting speakers such as the Kindness Ninja to speak to the student body regarding the importance of kindness.

In closing, I would like to formally recognize and thank the staff and administration at the Vassalboro Community School for their leadership and commitment to the above initiatives. None of these initiatives could have been accomplished without their dedication and professionalism. They are an invaluable asset to the community.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

ERIC ROWE ~ Chief



Last year, the Vassalboro Fire Department was very successful in being awarded several grants, which in turn

helps to reduce the tax dollars that we ask of you in support of the Vassalboro Fire Department.

A grant was awarded to the fire department from the Sukeforth Foundation in the amount of \$2,000. This will be matched by town funds and enabled us to purchase (2) new sets of turn out gear. Again this year, the Maine Municipal Association of which the Town of Vassalboro is a member, was awarded a grant for \$2,000. This will also be matched by town funds and enable us to purchase (2) new sets of turn out gear. We received a grant from Maine Forestry Service that allowed us to purchase (10) 5-Gallon buckets of Class A Foam, and (6) portable water backpacks for forestry/grass fires. We also received a grant from the Mid-State Foundation for \$1,000. This will also be used to purchase new turn out gear.



Photo by Don Breton

Chief Eric Rowe and Sue Haines

We would like to recognize and thank two retired fire fighters for their public service to the town of Vassalboro. Tim Giroux served on the Vassalboro Fire Department for 46 years. The late Phil Haines served first on the Riverside Hose Company and then the Vassalboro Fire Department for a total of 43 years.

Listed below are some of the 100+ types of calls the Vassalboro Fire Department responded to in 2017. Worth noting that we had a 50% increase from 2016 in motor vehicle accidents. Please drive safely.

- (13) Structure Fires
- 30) 10-55 Vehicle Accidents
- (15) Tree Down/Power Line Calls
- (4) Grass/Woods Fire
- (6) Mutual Aid Calls
- (2) Carbon Monoxide Alarms
- (13) Other misc. Calls
- (7) Chimney Fires
- (2) Fire Alarms



Photo by Sue Vashon

Tim Giroux & Chief Eric Rowe

If you remember, there is an article in the town warrant every year asking you to approve spending up to \$25,000 in matching funds from surplus in the event that the fire department is awarded some grants. This year we have applied for a new fire truck to replace the 1981 Hendrick Pumper, and another grant submitted to replace the SCBA's we have. Thank you for your continued support of this article.

Photo by Don Breton



Fallen tree on house on Priest Hill Road

On October 30th of last year, the Vassalboro Fire Department was dispatched to over 40 calls of either power lines down or trees down in the roadway due to the wind storm. In situations like this, we are very limited to what we can do to remove trees, especially if there are powerlines down. Together with the Public Works crew, we try to clear the roadways where no powerlines are involved. Otherwise, we need to wait for CMP to kill the power supply first.

Have you put your street number on your mailbox and house yet? When driving by your residence at a reasonable driving speed, can you clearly see your house number on either side of your mailbox or on your house in the daylight and at night? Please place 4" high numbers on both sides of your mailboxes and on your house, to assist us in finding you in the event of an emergency. Every minute counts when there is an emergency.

Thank you to the residents of the North Village for taking the time to clear away the snow from the fire hydrants during the winter. It certainly makes it easier to locate and get access to the hydrant in the event of an emergency.

I would like to thank all the members of the Vassalboro Fire Department for the countless hours they have spent making Vassalboro a safer place to live and protecting the town. Many hours are spent not only fighting fires, but firefighter training, fire prevention at the VCS, servicing trucks, and keeping up with state regulations. In addition, I would also like to thank their families for the times they spend away from you. And thanks to the town officials and you, the Vassalboro residents for your continued support of the fire department. We are fortunate and thankful to enjoy such a supportive community.

Photo by Don Breton



Vassalboro's 2017 Freightliner Pumper Truck

FIRST RESPONDERS

DANIEL MAYOTTE, CCEMT-P ~ Chief

The Vassalboro First Responders continues to be the busiest public safety service in the town. We have been providing services to the town for almost 4 years now.

Let's take a moment to review some of our statistics. These numbers are from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. Our average response time was 7 minutes and 32 seconds according to the State. The Town of Vassalboro had 342 calls for service. That is 52 more calls than the year prior.

Here is a quick rundown on some of the most common calls we have respond to.

So just what happens when you call 911 and why do they ask so many questions? Here in Vassalboro our Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) is the Augusta Regional Communications Center. They answer both land and cell 911 calls for service in the town.

The state has invested in a 911 instruction system, meaning that the dispatcher has lots of tools to help guide you through your emergency. The first question that they will be asking is "911 where is your emergency?" That allows them to send help if for some reason the connection is lost. They are going to ask that same question a second time to ensure that they have it correct and that emergency responders are heading to the correct location. They will then follow with inquiring as to what your emergency is. Once those two items have been identified a second dispatcher then starts the appropriate service(s) to you. They will continue to ask several questions pertaining to your exact emergency. They have the ability to talk you through CPR, AED use, Child Birth, Heart Attacks, Strokes and many more emergencies.

The biggest thing to remember with all of the questions that they ask, it provides more information for the responders whether it's police, fire, or ambulance, and will result in a better outcome for you and your family.

Please make sure your home is marked with a house number and that it is correct. We continue to have issues where we cannot find homes. If you need help in putting up house numbers, please reach out to us and we will gladly help.

We always have a need for more volunteers for both fire and/or EMS. You will need to have a clean driving record and no criminal history. We can guide you to a class to earn your license and then go through our hiring process. It can be a very rewarding side job; the town and residents are very supportive.



Contributed Photo

Joint extrication training

Our budget request remains flat for the upcoming year. Our budget is down to simple operating costs. Several of our everyday items are replaced by Delta with no expense to us. However, items like medications, batteries, radios, pagers fall under this town budget.

I would like to thank the Residents, Selectmen and Town Manager for your continued support. I truly hope that you see the value that this service offers to the town and that you will continue to support it.

If you would like to contact us for non-emergency communication, please go through the town office or email us at VassalboroFirstResponders@gmail.com



POLICE DEPARTMENT

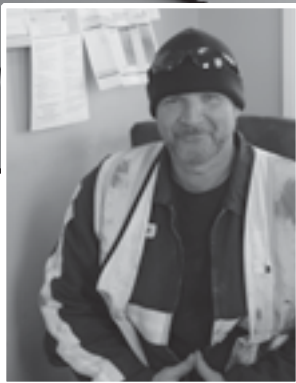
MARK BROWN ~ Police Chief

The Town continues to be very busy for all emergency services. Many issues include residential burglaries and thefts. To deter these issues, I recommend home owners lock their homes and vehicles as well as use your home security systems when available. As always, please feel free to call me (207) 557-4601 or email mbrown@vassalboro.net when you are away on vacation so I can keep an extra patrol on your residence or business. These burglaries and thefts tend to be on the increase due to the wide increase in the opioid crisis occurring within our State of Maine. Please report any suspicious activity to our communications center at (207) 624-7076 or dial 911 for all emergency calls.

Speeding is always an issue throughout our Town. I patrol the Town's roads and highways at various times throughout the week. Please be mindful of pedestrian traffic and bicycle traffic while traveling throughout our back roads. Bicycle traffic is reminded to adhere to the same traffic laws as vehicle traffic.

Winter month's complaints include snow plowing of private driveways. Residents are reminded that it is illegal to plow snow across public roadways. This can cause additional snow on the road which can cause accidents or damage to other passing vehicles. Also, snow removal vehicles are to display a flashing yellow/amber light on their vehicle when plowing to warn other motorists.

The Kennebec Sheriff's Office and Maine State Police provide the Town's full-time law enforcement and I provide additional patrol services on a part time basis. This allows me to handle the Town's complaints and supplement additional law enforcement services to their agencies. I work closely with the State Police and Sheriff's Office on a variety of calls to deter criminal activities on our community.



SOLID WASTE FACILITY

GEORGE HAMAR ~ Transfer Station Manager

It's our pleasure to share what's been going on at the Vassalboro transfer station and recycling facility in 2017. As always our focus is to

operate in accordance with the Maine Department of Labor and Environmental Protection regulations and standards, a clean, safe and friendly place to dispose of household wastes and recyclables.

I would like to thank all who recycle for their dedicated efforts. Also thank the Vassalboro public works crew and town office staff for all their services they provide throughout the year.

This past year two new roll off containers were purchased for the transfer station. These were bought from Maine Equipment Company in Hermon. We needed to replace a 25 year old badly worn 40 yd. Container and add a 30 yd. container for a newly constructed wall with an added ramp that residents and contractors with dump body trucks or trailers can back onto and dump into.

We anticipate purchasing at least one more 40 yd. roll off container the next fiscal year 2018 for overflow of materials being disposed of or in emergency power outages where the compactor cannot be used.

The public works department purchased a new loader thus relocating the backhoe to the transfer station where it is now housed in the recycling building built back in 2012. By having the backhoe at the transfer station full time, it makes day to day operations more efficient and productive when some materials need to be compacted. This allows us to schedule a pickup of the roll off containers when needed. It also helps to manage the snow at the facility.

Planet Aid discontinued their collection of clothing at the transfer station; they are currently no longer operating in the State of Maine. We will accept clothing in the swap shed as long as it's clean and dry. Residents can also donate to the local Goodwill or Salvation Army organizations if they prefer.

In November our hauling contract with Bolsters Rubbish Removal for the municipal solid waste (MSW) was extended to March 31, 2018 instead of the previous expiration date which ran from January 2016 to January 2018. This contract will then go out to bid again as we prepare to divert the MSW to the new Fiberight facility in Hampton.

The bulky waste and zero sort hauling contracts with Casella expire June 30th 2018. Again, this contract will also go out to bid.

The Vassalboro transfer station was built in 1989 and entered into a 30-year contract along with other towns and cities in the state to divert all of the MSW generated to the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (PERC), located in Orrington, Maine. PERC is a Waste-to-Energy Plant where the MSW is processed into energy in the form of electricity and/or heat from the primary treatment of waste.



Photo by George Hamar

The Municipal Review Committee or MRC is the organization that represents and manages the contracts with these communities. With the PERC contracts expiring in 2018, the MRC started searching for a more affordable waste disposal solution for its members. A Maryland based company called Fiberight was introduced and recently voted in favor of by most

community members to be their option for trash disposal. This company and its technology will convert trash into industrial sugars and biofuels. A new facility is to be constructed in Hampden, Maine in 2017-2018 and operational by April 2018, accepting the MSW from the joining municipalities.

Anyone interested in learning more about this can go to their website at www.mrcmaine.org to get the latest information on the post-2018 plan.

Zero-Sort recycling was introduced in December of 2013 at the transfer station. This program is a convenient and less confusing way for everyone to recycle.

In the past residents had to separate recycling such as newspapers & magazines, mixed paper/boxboard, plastics # 1-7, Tin & Aluminum cans, glass bottles and jars. These can now all be put together in one container or bag and brought to the transfer station. We can also recycle larger rigid plastics such as empty five gallon pails, old plastic totes, garbage cans, plastic lawn furniture etc. into this same container.

Our Zero Sort container is located to the right of the tall brown tower. We have repurposed old truck bed liners as chutes that you can slide your recyclables down into a roll off container that sits below the retaining wall. Please continue to separate Corrugated Cardboard and place it in the designated container at the transfer station.

With online shopping and more people participating in recycling there was a huge increase in cardboard this past year. Almost 32 more tons were recycled in 2017 than in 2016. Great Job to all that contributed!

The large tan building at the transfer station is being used for the Universal Waste (e-waste) we collect. These items include televisions, computers, printers, iPad's, game consoles, cell phones, batteries, fluorescent light bulbs and other misc. electronic devices. These contain heavy metals and other hazards and are required by Maine State law to be recycled.

In 2017

- 1350 tons of MSW (household trash) was hauled to PERC.
- 360 tons of Bulky Waste was hauled to the Juniper Ridge landfill.

Recycled in 2017	Vs.	Recycled in 2016
187 tons	Zero-Sort Recyclables	185 tons
94 tons	Corrugated Cardboard	62 tons
1,567	Fluorescent light bulbs	1,591 total
789	Used Tires	914 total
11.5 tons	Universal Waste (TV's etc.)	10 tons
225	Units with Freon	194 units
106 tons	Misc. Metals	110 tons
1,017 gallons	Waste Oil & Antifreeze	1,060 gallons
45 tons	Compost	40 tons

We look forward to continuing to serve the residents of Vassalboro. Please join us in keeping your transfer station a clean and fun place to dispose of all your household wastes and recyclables.

You can pick up a current transfer station fee schedule and Zero-Sort recycling brochure either at the town office or the transfer station. Please stop by the transfer station today to learn what can be recycled and save your tax dollars! And don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.



Transfer Station Manager George Hamar

Photo by Mary Sabins

KENNEBEC WATER DISTRICT

JEFF LaCASSE ~ General Manager of KWD

The Kennebec Water District has several critical facilities within the Town of Vassalboro. Those facilities include the KWD water treatment plant (WTP), the North Vassalboro Pump Station, the KWD intake facility and parallel transmission mains bringing water from the lake to the treatment facility and then on to KWD's primary pump station in Waterville. KWD also has distribution water mains and 17 public hydrants throughout the population center of North Vassalboro.

2017 was another busy year for the utility. District projects in Vassalboro included many improvements to the WTP. The WTP initially went online in 1993 and annual upgrades are necessary. The 2017 improvements included replacement of several internal mechanical and process components including replacement of the plant's granular activated carbon, our primary filtration media, for only the second time since plant's opening. KWD also contracted for a major rehabilitation of the WTP roof as the section over the administration area had begun to show signs of structural failure.

KWD Water Treatment Facility roofing upgrade

KWD has been involved with China Lake since 1902 and has used the lake as its sole source of supply since 1905. KWD's primary mission related to the lake is to maintain, and hopefully, improve the water quality of the lake. China Lake in 2017 had its best measurable water quality since the early 1970's due to a combination of factors. Foremost was the lack of precipitation in 2016 and 2017, a Mother Nature controlled phenomenon, but also contributing was the continued efforts of KWD and other stakeholders to promote projects that reduced the ability of phosphorus and other nutrients originating from human activities to enter the lake.

Throughout 2017, KWD staff members have been assisting the Alewife Restoration Initiative (ARI) group with the planning and design of a fish passage structure at the Outlet Dam. Current KWD policy considers the ARI project a fish restoration process rather than a water quality initiative, so the District has not pledged any of its ratepayer generated funds toward the ARI project. KWD feels the best use of its limited available financial resources for source protection is toward projects and initiatives geared to reducing nutrient inputs into the lake. We do, however, want to share our knowledge of the lake, experience with maintaining the lake level and stream flow within the guidelines prescribed by the DEP's China Lake level order and technical know-how with ARI in hopes of making Outlet Stream dam fish passage a seamless process and one that works for all stakeholders. We intend to continue to keep KWD staff involved in the evolution of the Outlet Stream dam project.



Contributed Photo

Kennebec Water District Treatment Plant



Proven Expertise and Integrity

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Selectmen
Town of Vassalboro
Vassalboro, Maine

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Vassalboro, Maine, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town of Vassalboro, Maine's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Vassalboro, Maine as of June 30, 2017, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The complete audit is available for inspection at the Town Office.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information and pension information on pages 4 through 10 and 54 through 58 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town of Vassalboro, Maine's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Departmental Operations – General Fund, combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements and capital asset schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by Title 20-A MRSA §6051, Sub-chapter 1(K) of the Maine Revised Statutes as amended, and is also not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The Schedule of Departmental Operations – General Fund, combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements, capital asset schedules and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards are the responsibility of management and were derived from and related directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Schedule of Departmental Operations – General Fund, combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements, capital asset schedules and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 5, 2018, on our consideration of the Town of Vassalboro, Maine's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Town of Vassalboro, Maine's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

RHR Smith & Company

Buxton, Maine
January 5, 2018

TOWN OF VASSALBORO, MAINE

BALANCE SHEET – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2017

	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 563,141	\$ -	\$ 563,141
Investments	1,099,660	-	1,099,660
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for uncollectibles):			
Taxes	272,541	-	272,541
Liens	107,005	-	107,005
Due from other governments	7,100	219,320	226,420
Inventory	-	9,600	9,600
Prepaid items	27,942	-	27,942
Due from other funds	95,768	363,182	458,950
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,173,157	\$ 592,102	\$ 2,765,259
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	\$ 22,772	\$ -	\$ 22,772
Due to other governments	21,296	3,558	24,854
Accrued expenses	315,890	-	315,890
Accrued compensated absences	51,057	-	51,057
Due to other funds	363,182	95,768	458,950
TOTAL LIABILITIES	774,197	99,326	873,523
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Prepaid taxes	5,340	-	5,340
Deferred tax revenues	225,866	-	225,866
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	231,206	-	231,206
FUND BALANCES			
Nonspendable	27,942	105,410	133,352
Restricted	-	314,860	314,860
Committed	-	93,495	93,495
Assigned	31,023	60,936	91,959
Unassigned	1,108,789	(81,925)	1,026,864
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	1,167,754	492,776	1,660,530
TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 2,173,157	\$ 592,102	\$ 2,765,259

See accompanying independent auditors' report and notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF VASSALBORO, MAINE

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES			
Taxes:			
Property	\$ 4,272,967	\$ -	\$ 4,272,967
Excise	847,064	-	847,064
Intergovernmental revenues	4,239,882	926,979	5,166,861
Charges for services	93,036	46,892	139,928
State of Maine on-behalf payments	305,878	-	305,878
Other revenues	212,609	34,956	247,565
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>9,971,436</u>	<u>1,008,827</u>	<u>10,980,263</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Current:			
General government	456,520	-	456,520
Public safety	180,581	-	180,581
Public works	919,279	-	919,279
Culture and recreation	56,521	-	56,521
Social services	14,291	-	14,291
Education	7,364,364	862,492	8,226,856
County tax	312,193	-	312,193
Solid waste	277,307	-	277,307
Other	38,274	54,589	92,863
State of Maine on-behalf payments	305,878	-	305,878
Debt service:			
Principal	63,625	-	63,625
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>9,988,833</u>	<u>917,081</u>	<u>10,905,914</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	<u>(17,397)</u>	<u>91,746</u>	<u>74,349</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Transfers in	121,000	151,275	272,275
Transfers (out)	(151,275)	(121,000)	(272,275)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	<u>(30,275)</u>	<u>30,275</u>	<u>-</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(47,672)	122,021	74,349
FUND BALANCES - JULY 1	<u>1,215,426</u>	<u>370,755</u>	<u>1,586,181</u>
FUND BALANCES - JUNE 30	<u>\$ 1,167,754</u>	<u>\$ 492,776</u>	<u>\$ 1,660,530</u>

See accompanying independent auditors' report and notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF VASSALBORO, MAINE

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE – BUDGETARY BASIS
 BUDGET AND ACTUAL – GENERAL FUND
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Budgetary Fund Balance, July 1	\$ 1,215,426	\$ 1,215,426	\$ 1,215,426	\$ -
Resources (Inflows):				
Taxes:				
Property taxes	4,267,552	4,267,552	4,272,967	5,415
Excise taxes	731,000	731,000	847,064	116,064
Intergovernmental revenues:				
Education subsidy	-	3,893,335	3,893,335	-
State revenue sharing	135,000	135,000	138,626	3,626
Local road assistance	64,000	64,000	64,124	124
State park sharing	1,500	1,500	2,795	1,295
Homestead exemption	123,074	123,074	111,707	(11,367)
Tree growth	16,000	16,000	16,406	406
Veterans exemptions	2,500	2,500	2,992	492
Other	8,484	8,484	9,897	1,413
Charges for services	86,500	90,258	93,036	2,778
Interest income	-	-	37,968	37,968
Interest/fees on taxes	32,000	32,000	39,440	7,440
Sale of town property/assets	15,000	15,000	34,125	19,125
Miscellaneous revenue	18,000	90,285	101,076	10,791
Transfers from other funds	80,000	121,000	121,000	-
Amounts Available for Appropriation	<u>6,796,036</u>	<u>10,806,414</u>	<u>11,001,984</u>	<u>195,570</u>
Charges to Appropriations (Outflows):				
General government	467,343	467,343	456,520	10,823
Public safety	207,951	207,951	180,581	27,370
Public works	906,492	946,168	919,279	26,889
Culture and recreation	50,029	58,144	56,521	1,623
Social services	14,767	14,767	14,291	476
Education	3,234,307	7,373,051	7,364,364	8,687
County tax	312,193	312,193	312,193	-
Solid waste	286,634	286,634	277,307	9,327
Debt service:				
Principal	63,625	63,625	63,625	-
Other	70,994	99,694	38,274	61,420
Transfers to other funds	151,275	151,275	151,275	-
Total Charges to Appropriations	<u>5,765,610</u>	<u>9,980,845</u>	<u>9,834,230</u>	<u>146,615</u>
Budgetary Fund Balance, June 30	<u>\$ 1,030,426</u>	<u>\$ 825,569</u>	<u>\$ 1,167,754</u>	<u>\$ 342,185</u>
Utilization of restricted fund balance	\$ -	\$ 132,124	\$ -	\$ (132,124)
Utilization of assigned fund balance	-	72,733	-	(72,733)
Utilization of unassigned fund balance	185,000	185,000	-	(185,000)
	<u>\$ 185,000</u>	<u>\$ 389,857</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (389,857)</u>

See accompanying independent auditors' report and notes to financial statements.

MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES

JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017

ADMINISTRATION

Appropriation:	\$ 424,042.00
Expenditures:	
Personnel service	\$ 319,077.76
Insurance	7,860.51
Utilities	6,516.33
Building/Grounds Maintenance	7,614.19
Printing/Advertising	5,346.51
Audit/Legal/Dues	22,094.20
Office Supplies/Equipment	5,401.60
Technology/Postage/Other	32,830.26
Registry of Deeds	7,176.95
Balance	<u>\$ 10,123.69</u>

PUBLIC WORKS

Appropriation:	\$ 440,392.00
Expenditures:	
Personnel Services	\$ 248,423.28
Insurance	18,635.83
Sand/Salt/other contracts	59,469.81
Vehicle Expenses/Equip.	73,969.20
Garage Utilities/Supplie	19,135.54
Bridges/Culverts/signs	5,356.94
Balance	<u>\$ 15,401.40</u>

SOLID WASTE

Appropriation:	\$ 286,634.00
Expenditures:	
Personnel Services	\$ 95,366.44
Insurance	3,539.31
Bldg. Maintenance/Water Monitoring	8,466.45
Utilities/Supplies	3,857.04
Disposal/Hauling/Recycling	166,077.42
Balance	<u>\$ 9,327.34</u>

ROAD PAVING/GRAVEL ROADS

Appropriation:	\$ 301,100.00
Expenditures:	
Paving	\$ 318,233.40
Striping	13,358.40
Gravel Roads/Maintenance	7,472.88
Carry forward – paving	+ 39,675.98
Balance	<u>\$ 1,711.30</u>

FIRST RESPONDERS

Appropriation:	\$ 12,275.00
Expenditures:	
Equipment/Radios	\$ 5,613.41
Licensing Fees	400.00
Malpractice/Work Comp Ins.	1,162.75
Operations/Misc. fees	1,685.00
Balance	<u>\$ 3,413.84</u>

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Appropriation:	\$ 71,600.00
Expenditures:	
Utilities	\$ 7,297.73
Insurances	8,706.64
Repairs	12,565.09
Training/Equipment/Supplies	19,732.92
Radios	342.57
Bldg Maintenance	3,858.59
Firefighter stipend	9,044.00
Chief Stipend	3,200.00
Balance	<u>\$ 6,852.46</u>

PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE & ANIMAL CONTROL

Appropriation:	\$ 66,576.00
Expenditures:	
Employee Costs	\$ 25,973.83
Insurances	2,266.80
Supplies/Vehicle Maintenance	6,186.99
Humane Society	6,900.60
Public Safety Dispatch fees	24,984.00
Balance	<u>\$ 263.78</u>

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT/RESERVES

Appropriation and Reserve Use:	\$ 228,700.00
Expenditures:	
Public Works Equipment Reserve	\$ 125,223.00
Transfer Station Reserve	10,000.00
Public Works Plow Truck Reserve	25,000.00
China Lake launch repair <i>(carried into FY18)</i>	28,700.00
Balance	<u>\$ 39,777.00</u>

RECREATION/SUMMER YOUTH

Appropriation:	\$ 15,000.00
Expenditures:	\$ 19,356.95
Carry forward from previous years	+ 4,356.95
Balance	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

RECREATION/ROUTE #3 REST AREA

Appropriation:	\$ 300.00
Expenditures:	\$ 0.00
Balance	<u>\$ 300.00</u>

LIBRARY

Appropriation:	\$ 31,729.00
Expenditures:	\$ 31,729.00
Balance	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

UTILITIES

Appropriation:	\$ 37,500.00
Expenditures:	
Street Lights	17,743.82
Hydrant Rental	18,640.56
Balance	<u>\$ 1,115.62</u>

CEMETERIES

Appropriation:	\$ 30,000.00
Expenditures:	
Care of Cemeteries	\$ 25,729.43
Balance	<u>\$ 4,270.57</u>

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Appropriation:	\$ 3,000.00
Expenditures:	
Shelter	\$ 2,523.87
Balance	<u>\$ 476.13</u>

ASSESSMENT

Appropriation:	\$ 43,300.00
Expenditures:	
Contract Assessor Costs:	\$ 26,799.96
Maps/Dues/Supplies	1,991.90
Postage	2,310.19
Quarterly Review	11,500.00
Balance	<u>\$ 697.95</u>

SOCIAL SERVICES

Appropriation:	\$ 11,767.00
Expenditures:	
Hospice	\$ 1,600.00
Food Pantry	2,000.00
Family Violence	2,250.00
KV Mental Health	3,500.00
Spectrum Generations	1,000.00
Sexual Assault & Crisis Center	1,417.00
Balance	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

MISCELLANEOUS REQUEST

Appropriation:	\$ 9,500.00
Expenditures:	
Historical Society	\$ 3,000.00
Snowmobile Club	1,500.00
C.R.L.A.	5,000.00
Balance	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

DEBT SERVICE

Appropriation:	\$ 63,625.00
Expenditures:	
Fire Truck Lease (payment #1 of 5)	\$ 63,625.00
Balance	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

COUNTY TAX

Appropriation:	\$ 312,194.00
Expenditures:	\$ 312,193.53
Balance	<u>\$ 0.47</u>

EDUCATION (Local funds only.)

Appropriation	\$ 3,234,307.00
Expenditures:	\$ 3,234,307.00
Balance	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

CONTINGENCY FUND

Approved from surplus if needed:	\$ 15,000.00
Expenditures:	
Emergency Computer Repairs	\$ 5,590.00
Balance	<u>\$ 9,410.00</u>

TOWN MEETING WARRANT: JUNE 4-12, 2018

GREETINGS: In the name of the State of Maine you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Vassalboro in said Kennebec County, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Vassalboro Community School on Monday, June 4th, 2018, at 6:30 in the evening to elect a moderator to preside at said meeting, then and there to act on Articles 1 through 56, all of said articles being set out below to wit: and further to warn said voters to meet at the Town Office building in said Town on Tuesday, the 12th day of June 2018, then and there to act on Articles numbered 57 to 58. The polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Article 1: To choose a **Moderator** to preside at said Meeting, and to pay a sum not to exceed \$200.00 for his/her services.

Article 2: To elect from the floor, under the rules of this meeting, five (5) members of the **Budget Committee** to serve two year terms, and one (1) member to serve a one year term (filling the unexpired term of Eddie Scholz, who resigned).

Terms Expire in 2018:

Richard Phippen, Rick Denico, Jr., Doug Phillips
Elizabeth Reuthe, Vacancy (John Melrose resigned)

Term Expires in 2019:

Vacancy (Eddie Scholz resigned)

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to fix the **due dates of taxes** as follows, and to set the rate of interest at the prevailing allowable State rate: 8.00%. Interest will begin to accrue 7 days after the due date.

- One-fourth of taxes due on 09-24-18
- One-fourth of taxes due on 11-26-18
- One-fourth of taxes due on 02-25-19
- One-fourth of taxes due on 04-22-19

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

REVENUES

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to use the following **anticipated revenue** amounts and from the sources named to reduce the 2018-2019 tax commitment:

Excise Tax.....	\$ 800,000
Agent Fees.....	15,000
Snowmobile agent fees.....	2,750
Boat Excise Tax.....	7,000
Interest/Penalties.....	38,000
State Revenue Sharing.....	170,000
State Road Assistance.....	64,000
Tree Growth Reimbursement.....	16,000
State Park Sharing.....	2,500
Veterans Exemption.....	3,000
Miscellaneous.....	5,000
Permit Fees.....	10,000
Solid Waste/Recycling.....	21,000
Franchise Fee/Cable Fees.....	16,000
Clerk Fees.....	8,500
Surplus.....	<u>150,000</u>
TOTAL REVENUES.....	\$ 1,328,750

Selectmen Recommend: \$1,328,750
Budget Committee recommends: \$1,328,750

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$445,805 for **Administration**.

Selectmen Recommend: \$445,805
Budget Committee Recommends: \$443,305

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$44,750 for **Assessment Costs**.

Selectmen Recommend: \$44,750
Budget Committee Recommends: \$44,750

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$37,500 for **Capital Improvements/Reserves** as follows:

Plow Truck Reserve:	\$25,000
Riverside Fire Station Roof Reserve:	<u>\$12,500</u>
TOTAL:	\$37,500

Selectmen Recommend from TAXATION: \$37,500
Budget Committee Recommends from SURPLUS: \$37,500

PUBLIC WORKS

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$485,053 for the **Public Works Department**.

Selectmen Recommend: \$485,053
Budget Committee Recommends: \$482,053

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$373,940 for **paving work** to allow the Town to pave all or portions of the following roads: Cross Hill Road (north end), Hannaford Hill, Katie Lane, and the public works garage parking lot; and for **road striping and paved road maintenance** and if any of said sums remain, the Selectmen at their discretion could do additional paving.

Selectmen Recommend: \$373,940
Budget Committee Recommends: \$373,940

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$306,500 for the cost of operating the Town's **Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Facility**.

Selectmen Recommend: \$306,500
Budget Committee Recommends: \$306,500

Article 11: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to spend up to \$6,000 from the Transfer Station Reserve Fund to purchase a new **roll-off container** for use at the Transfer Station.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

PUBLIC SAFETY

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$69,797 for the **Public Safety Department** that includes the Police, Animal Control, and Dispatch expenses.

Selectmen Recommend: \$69,797
Budget Committee Recommends: \$69,797

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,250 for the cost of operating the **Vassalboro First Responder Service**.

Selectmen Recommend: \$13,250
Budget Committee Recommends: \$13,250

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum not to exceed \$5,000 from SURPLUS to be used as local match dollars for new First Responder Service equipment. These funds will be expended only in the event of a **First Responder Service grant award**.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$67,540 for the **Fire Department**.

Selectmen Recommend: \$67,540
Budget Committee Recommends: \$67,540

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum not to exceed \$30,000 from SURPLUS to be used as local match dollars for new Fire Department equipment. These funds will be expended only in the event of a **Fire Department grant award**.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$63,625 for lease payment number three of five for the **2017 E-One Pumper Fire Truck**.

Selectmen Recommend: \$63,625
Budget Committee Recommends: \$63,625

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,450 for **fire hydrant rental**.

Selectmen Recommend: \$20,450
Budget Committee Recommends: \$20,450

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,250 for **Street Lights**.

Selectmen Recommend: \$18,250
Budget Committee Recommends: \$18,250

SPECIAL ARTICLES AND TOWN POLICY

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen on behalf of the Town to **dispose of any real estate**

acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, on such terms as they may deem advisable and to execute quit-claim deeds for such property.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen or their designee to submit **grant applications for State of Maine, Federal Government, or any other duly authorized authority funding** and if said program is approved, authorize the municipal officers to accept said grant funds, to make such assurances, assume such responsibilities, and exercise such authority as are necessary and reasonable to implement such program, and to disburse such funds for the purpose granted.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen or their designee to apply for, on behalf of the Town, a **Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazardous Mitigation grant application** or any other grant opportunity, for a new generator to power all or part of the Vassalboro Community School in the event of a power outage, and if said program is approved, to further authorize the Selectmen to expend funds from the town's general fund as needed to pay for the entire project while awaiting state reimbursement. Furthermore, if such grant is received, the town authorizes and appropriates the sum not to exceed \$10,000 from SURPLUS to be used as local match dollars for this purpose and to purchase related items not covered by the grant such as the cement installation pad and wiring of the building. These funds will be expended only in the event of a grant award for the generator, and other related expenses.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to accept a **Quitclaim Deed from Paul and Elisabeth Cates** releasing any claim of title the Cates may have to those parcels of land shown on the Town Tax Maps as Map 20, Lots 29 and 30.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 24: Shall an ordinance entitled "**Town of Vassalboro Building Permit Ordinance as revised June 2018**" be enacted? (A copy of the proposed ordinance is attached to and has become part of this warrant. Additional copies of the proposed ordinance are available at the Town Office.)

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Planning Board Recommends: Approval

Article 25: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate from **overlay** those sums which it is obligated to pay for approved tax abatements including any interest due thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 26: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen, for the fiscal year 2018-2019, to **transfer funds** between appropriation accounts so long as the grand total of all appropriations is not exceeded. Any such transfers to be approved only at a properly called public meeting of the Selectmen and Budget Committee.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers under Maine statutes, Chapter 12 Section 6131 and amendments thereto, to promulgate such regulations compatible with the General Laws of the State to govern the time and manner in which **river herring (alewives)** shall be taken therein for the calendar year 2019.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 28: To see if the Town will authorize the Municipal Officers to sell surplus **river herring (alewives)** for one or more years, or take any action relative to the same.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the revenues received in FY2018-19 from the Natural Gas Pipeline Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District into a fund designated as the **Development Program Fund** to be used for projects, loans and/or grants for economic development within the Town as outlined in the Development Program for the District to be expended on such projects at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to **dispose of Town owned property** with a value of \$10,000 or less, under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to authorize an amount not to exceed \$15,000 from SURPLUS to serve as a **contingency fund** to be spent by the Selectmen in the event of an emergency and to avoid overdrafts.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

LIBRARY

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$33,929 for the Town's share of the **Library's** budget.

Selectmen Recommend: \$33,929
Budget Committee Recommends: \$33,929

HEALTH AND WELFARE/OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 for **General Assistance** and to authorize the Selectmen to expend any and all reimbursement funds received from the State.

Selectmen Recommend: \$3,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,000

Article 34: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the fiscal year 2018-2019 budget for the following purposes, or act thereon:

	Agency Request	Selectmen Recommend	Budget Comm. Recommendations
Vassalboro Food Station	2,000	2,000	2,000
Hospice of Waterville	1,600	1,600	1,600
Family Violence Project	4,925	2,250	2,250
KV Behavioral Health	3,500	3,500	3,500
Spectrum Generations	1,100	1,000	1,000
Sexual Assault Crisis	1,519	1,417	1,417
KV Com. Action Program	1,450	1,350	1,350
Literacy Vols. - Waterville	500	500	500
47 Daisies	2,500	-0-	-0-
Town Line Newspaper	3,000	-0-	-0-
FAVOR	1,000	1,000	1,000
TOTALS:	\$23,094	\$14,617	\$14,617

RECREATION

Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,430 for the **Recreation Department**.

Selectmen Recommend: \$15,430
Budget Committee Recommends: \$15,430

Article 36: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500 for the **Kennebec Trail Riders Snowmobile Club** for the maintenance of snowmobile trails with the understanding that such trails will be open for the use of snowmobiles during snowmobile season.

Selectmen Recommend: \$1,500
Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,500

MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS AND REQUESTS

Article 37: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,150 for the support of the **Vassalboro Historical Society** to assist this organization with the maintenance of the former East Vassalboro school building.

Selectmen Recommend: \$4,150
Budget Committee Recommends: \$4,150

Article 38: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,000 for the Town's share in the **Maintenance of Cemeteries and Public Grounds and for Memorial Day expenses**.

Selectmen Recommend: \$28,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$28,000

Article 39: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$325,337.03 for the estimated assessment from **Kennebec County Government**.

Selectmen Recommend: \$325,337.03
Budget Committee Recommends: \$325,337.03

Article 40: To see if the Town will vote to take from Alewife Reserves the sum of \$7,500 for the support of the **China Region Lakes Alliance**.

Selectmen Recommend: \$7,500
Budget Committee Recommends: \$7,500

Article 41: To see if the Town will vote to increase the **property tax levy limit** of \$603,610.06 established for the Town of Vassalboro by State Law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit. (Written ballot)

SCHOOL BUDGET ARTICLES TO APPROPRIATE MONIES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

ARTICLES PURSUANT TO 20-A M.R.S.A. SECTION 1485

Article 42: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$4,421,404.46 for **Regular Instruction**.

School Committee Recommends: \$4,421,404.46
Budget Committee Recommends: \$4,421,404.46

Article 43: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$1,441,961.33 for **Special Education**.

School Committee Recommends: \$1,441,961.33
Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,441,961.33

Article 44: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$19,210.84 for **Career and Technical Education**.

School Committee Recommends: \$19,210.84
Budget Committee Recommends: \$19,210.84

Article 45: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$55,383.36 for **Other Instruction**.

School Committee Recommends: \$55,383.36
Budget Committee Recommends: \$55,383.36

Article 46: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$312,328.62 for **Student and Staff Support**.

School Committee Recommends: \$312,328.62
Budget Committee Recommends: \$312,328.62

Article 47: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$148,826.56 for **System Administration**.

School Committee Recommends: \$148,826.56
Budget Committee Recommends: \$148,826.56

Article 48: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$329,119.48 for **School Administration**.

School Committee Recommends: \$329,119.48
Budget Committee Recommends: \$279,119.48

Article 49: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$496,722.11 for **Transportation and Buses**.

School Committee Recommends: \$496,722.11
Budget Committee Recommends: \$496,722.11

Article 50: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$505,828.67 for **Facilities Maintenance**.

School Committee Recommends: \$505,828.67
Budget Committee Recommends: \$505,828.67

Article 51: To see what sum the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend for **Debt Service and Other Commitments**.

School Committee Recommends: \$.00
Budget Committee Recommends: \$.00

Article 52: To see what sum the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend for **All Other Expenditures**.

School Committee Recommends: \$.00
Budget Committee Recommends: \$.00

ARTICLES PURSUANT TO 20-A, M.R.S.A. SECTION 15690

Article 53: To see what sum the municipality will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act (Recommend \$6,550,834.07) and to see what sum the municipality will raise as the municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

Statutory Recommendation: \$2,664,693.75
School Committee Recommendation: \$2,664,693.75
Budget Committee Recommendation: \$2,664,693.75

***Explanation:** The school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act*

is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a municipality must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.”

Article 54: To see what sum the municipality/district/unit will vote to raise and appropriate in additional local funds for school purposes under Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, §15690.

School Committee Recommends: \$1,033,214.76

Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,033,214.76

The school budget does exceed the state EPS funding model. Increased cost for special education, salaries & benefits, and tuition.

Explanation: *The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the school administrative unit’s local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the municipality/district budget for educational programs.*

Article 55: To see what sum the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019 from the school administrative unit’s contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine

Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

School Committee Recommends: \$7,730,785.43

Budget Committee Recommends: \$7,680,785.43

Article 56: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated.

School Committee Recommends: Approval

Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

The following articles will be decided by secret ballot election. The polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., June 12th, 2018 at the Town Office.

Article 57: Do you favor approving the Vassalboro Community School’s budget for the upcoming school year that was adopted at the June 4, 2018 Annual Town Meeting?

Article 58: To elect all necessary municipal officers/officials by secret ballot.

Given unto our hands this ____ day of _____ 2018, AD

Lauchlin W. Titus, Chairman

Robert C. Browne, Jr., Selectman

John G. Melrose, Selectman

VARIANCE IN PROPOSED BUDGET

ACCOUNT	CURRENT YEAR 2017-2018	SELECTMEN'S PROPOSED BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE	
TOWN BUDGET:					
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 428,143.40	\$ 445,804.79	\$ 17,661.39	4.13%	
PUBLIC WORKS	480,065.00	485,052.75	4,987.75	1.04%	
SOLID WASTE	299,795.00	306,500.39	6,705.39	2.24%	
PAVING/MAINTENANCE PROGRAM	370,950.00	373,940.00	2,990.00	0.81%	
FIRST RESPONDERS	10,000.00	13,250.00	3,250.00	32.50%	
FIRE DEPARTMENT	61,100.00	67,540.00	6,440.00	10.54%	
PUBLIC SAFETY	67,937.00	69,796.98	1,859.98	2.74%	
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT/RESERVES	40,000.00	43,500.00	3,500.00	8.75%	
RECREATION	15,430.00	15,430.00	0.00	0.00%	
LIBRARY	32,729.00	33,929.00	1,200.00	3.67%	
UTILITIES	37,500.00	38,700.00	1,200.00	3.20%	
CEMETERIES	40,000.00	28,000.00	-12,000.00	-30.00%	
GENERAL ASSISTANCE	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00%	
ASSESSMENT COSTS	43,800.00	44,750.00	950.00	2.17%	
SOCIAL SERVICES	13,617.00	13,617.00	0.00	0.00%	
MISCELLANEOUS REQ.	11,100.00	14,150.00	3,050.00	27.48%	
DEBT SERVICE (Fire Truck Lease)	63,625.00	63,625.00	0.00	0.00%	
TOTAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET	2,018,791.40	2,060,585.91	41,794.51	2.07%	
REVENUE BUDGET:					
GENERAL REVENUES	1,165,900.00	1,192,250.00	26,350.00	2.26%	
SURPLUS	150,000.00	150,000.00	0.00	0.00%	
HOMESTEAD AND BETE REIMB (est.)	174,263.90	217,010.00	42,746.10	24.53%	
TOTAL REVENUES	1,490,163.90	1,559,260.00	69,096.10	4.64%	
TAX LEVY REQUIREMENT - TOWN BUDGET	528,627.50	501,325.91	-27,301.59	-5.16%	
MIL RATE MUNICIPAL	1.77	1.66	-0.11	-6.03%	
COUNTY TAX:	312,452.00	325,337.03	12,885.03	4.12%	
COUNTY TAX MIL RATE	1.04	1.08	0.03	3.18%	
SCHOOL BUDGET:					
REGULAR INSTRUCTION	4,283,072.79	4,421,404.46	138,331.67	3.23%	
SPECIAL EDUCATION	1,140,697.92	1,441,961.33	301,263.41	26.41%	
CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION	133,729.76	19,210.84	-114,518.92	-85.63%	
OTHER INSTRUCTION	53,837.12	55,383.36	1,546.24	2.87%	
STUDENT & STAFF SUPPORT	305,710.95	312,328.62	6,617.67	2.16%	
SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION	167,348.75	148,826.56	-18,522.19	-11.07%	
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION	288,134.39	329,119.48	40,985.09	14.22%	
TRANSPORTATION & BUSES	476,406.92	496,722.11	20,315.19	4.26%	
FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	533,897.51	505,828.67	-28,068.84	-5.26%	
DEBT SERVICE & OTHER COMMITMENTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	
ALL OTHER EXPENDITURES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	
TOTAL SCHOOL BUDGET	7,382,836.11	7,730,785.43	347,949.32	4.71%	
TAX LEVY REQUIREMENT - SCHOOL BUDGET	3,369,268.70	3,697,908.51	328,639.81	9.75%	
SCHOOL MIL RATE	11.26	12.25	0.99	8.76%	
OVERLAY (estimated)	23,969.58	25,000.00	1,030.42	4.30%	
Overlay mil rate	0.08	0.08	0.00	3.35%	
TIF DISTRICT	118,521.33	115,000.00	-3,521.33	-2.97%	
TIF mil rate	0.40	0.38	-0.02	-3.85%	
COMBINED TAX LEVY REQUIREMENTS	4,352,839.11	4,664,571.45	311,732.34	7.16%	
ESTIMATED COMBINED NET MIL RATE	14.55	15.45	0.90	6.19%	
VALUATIONS (estimated as of 2/21/18)	299,164,200.00	301,905,800.00	2,741,600.00	0.92%	
BUDGET TOTALS GROSS AMOUNTS					% of Budget
COUNTY TAX	312,452.00	325,337.03	12,885.03	4.12%	5.23%
MUNICIPAL BUDGET	2,018,791.40	2,060,585.91	41,794.51	2.07%	33.11%
SCHOOL BUDGET - local portion raised	3,369,268.70	3,697,908.51	328,639.81	9.75%	59.42%
OVERLAY	23,969.58	25,000.00	1,030.42	4.30%	0.40%
TIF DISTRICT	118,521.33	115,000.00	-3,521.33	-2.97%	1.85%
TOTAL ASSESSMENTS FOR TAX COMMITMENT	\$5,843,003.01	\$6,223,831.45	\$380,828.44	6.52%	100%

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