

A topographic map of the Vassalboro area, showing contour lines, roads, and geographical features. The map is in a sepia tone.

Vassalboro Annual Report

Celebrating Our History

A historical black and white photograph of a two-story building, likely a post office. The building has a sign that reads "POST OFFICE" above the entrance. Several men in period clothing are standing in front of the building. A horse-drawn wagon is parked on the right side of the building. The year "2020" is overlaid in the center of the image.

2020

vassalboro.net

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Cover Photo: Old Butterfield Store, four corners, East Vassalboro. The Post Office was located in the corner of the building. Sign over the front door reads G.H. Cates & Co. (photo contributed by Vassalboro Historical Society)

Annual Report Design

a' design

annmaryabbott@gmail.com

Dedication

Dedication



This year's annual report is dedicated to the Vassalboro Historical Society, without whom our annual town reports would be far less interesting. The caring volunteers at the Historical Society collect and preserve photos and objects from the town's past and make them readily available for the public's enjoyment, particularly through displays at the Society's Museum on Rt. #32 in the East Village area. Each year when the town report is assembled for publication, help and assistance is frequently sought from the volunteers at the Historical Society to obtain stories and photos for inclusion in the book. Just as the Society volunteers do, the town office staff members who are responsible for the content of the book each year, enjoy celebrating and reminiscing the heritage of the Vassalboro Community. We take pride in combining pictures and stories of old and mixing them with the current and new.

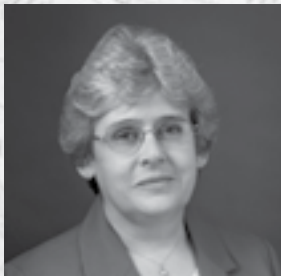
Founded in 1963, the Historical Society's purpose has been to bring people together who are interested in Vassalboro's history; to discover, collect, preserve and disseminate any material that illustrates the history; and to make that material available to those who have an interest in the past and present history of the Town.

The Society has much to offer everyone, whether long-time residents or newcomers to the area. Donations to the Society's collections are encouraged and volunteers to preserve the collections are welcomed to help celebrate and protect the heritage of our community.

We appreciate and thank the many volunteers of the Historical Society who work countless hours to preserve and share our town's bygone days for all to reminisce and enjoy!

Town Manager

Town Managers Story



Town Manager
Mary Sabins
Town Manager

The year 2020 certainly presented its challenges with the onset of the Corona virus global pandemic. Because the virus was highly transmittable and potentially deadly, municipal services that we provide to the public were interrupted with a complete shutdown of the town office for the month of April to comply with the Governor's stay-at-home order. A partial shutdown for the month of May continued where staff returned to the office to conduct business over the phone and computer, but our doors were not open to the public. In June, we were able to welcome the public back into the building, but in a limited capacity. To prevent airborne infection, Plexiglass was added at the counter windows with tables placed in front of the windows in the lobby to provide the recommended six feet of distance between the customer and front counter staff. A sanitation regime of frequently wiping counter surfaces and pens was implemented as well. Each customer was, and continues to be, required to wear a face mask to enter the building and only two customers are allowed in at a time as a safety precaution. With the use of long-handled barbeque baskets to exchange paperwork and funds over the now-extended counter, we were back in business.

Even though our business operations would change around us, we quickly learned to adapt and changed our old ways of doing town business so town business could still get done. With the help of Information Technology staff at the school, the Select Board held virtual meetings on computer from their homes. With a little creativity, the annual Town Meeting was held in June at the

school, with the gymnasium divided by the center court curtain with 50 chairs on each side of the curtain to meet the Governor's requirement for public gatherings of 50 or less people. We plan to do the same for the 2021 annual town meeting.



Photo by Mary Sabins

Lauchlin Titus (center) receives 2020 Spirit of America Award from Selectmen Rob Browne(L) and John Melrose.(R)

During the 2020 June town meeting, the annual Spirit of America award was presented to outgoing Selectman Lauchlin Titus to recognize his 12 years of service as a Selectman, his time served on the School Committee and the Budget Committee, his volunteerism with the Vassalboro Business Association, and his membership activity with the Grange in town. Thank you again, Lauchlin, for all of your many contributions to this community! As Lauchlin left his long-time position on the Select Board, we welcomed Barbara Redmond as the newest member of the Board joining other Select Board Members John Melrose and Rob Browne.



Photo by Mary Sabins

Summer Intern Mike Levesque works on Cemetery Census Project.

Also in June, the long anticipated and planned-for project of making an electronic database of all our cemetery burials began! With the recruiting and selection help of the Margaret Chase Smith Foundation, a very

capable college summer intern named Mike Levesque accepted the challenge to begin our project. Mike worked through mid-August to collect data and build the digital database for the Cross Hill Cemetery on our new cemetery census software named Pontem Software. Before Mike left to return to college, he started cataloging our largest cemetery on Cemetery Street, but it is not yet complete and that is where the next intern will begin working in June of 2021. Since there are 26 cemeteries in Vassalboro, this project is a huge undertaking, and it will be several summers before it is complete.

In August of 2020, two new staff members joined the Vassalboro team! Adam Daoust joined the Transfer Station team as the new station attendant. Kayla Krause joined the office staff team a few weeks later after former staff member Debbie Johnston-Nixon resigned to move south with her husband to avoid Maine winters. Welcome again Adam and Kayla! We're glad you're here!

Many other projects were undertaken in 2020 including signing a solar energy power purchase agreement, trail improvements, and a large culvert replacement on the Cross Hill Road. Be sure to check out the stories and photos of these projects in the department reports and committee updates contained in the following pages of this book!

In closing, I want to thank the Select Board, the volunteers, and all of my staff for your skilled talent and all that you contribute to the community of Vassalboro every day. It is my pleasure to work alongside you!

Directory of Officials

Directory of Officials



(Select Board Members L-R) Barbara Redmond, John Melrose, Robert Browne

SELECT BOARD/OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

- 2021 John Melrose, Chairman
- 2022 Robert Browne
- 2023 Barbara Redmond

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

- 2022 Kevin Levasseur, Chairman
- 2021 Jolene Clark Gamage
- 2023 Erin Libby Loiko
- 2023 Zachary Smith
- 2022 Jessica Clark

PLANNING BOARD

- 2022 Virginia Brackett, Chair
- 2022 Betsy Poulin
- 2021 Douglas Phillips
- 2021 Sally Butler
- 2022 John Phillips
- 2021 Marianne Stevens, Alternate

BUDGET COMMITTEE

- 2022 Rick Denico, Jr., Chairman
- 2021 Donald Breton
- 2021 Christopher French
- 2022 Frank Richards
- 2022 Douglas Phillips
- 2022 Mike Poulin
- 2021 Peggy Schaffer
- 2021 William Browne
- 2022 Richard Bradstreet
- 2021 Phillip Landry

BOARD OF APPEALS

- 2021 Leon Duff
- 2021 John Reuthe
- 2022 Rebecca Lamey
- 2021 Kevin Reed
- 2022 Steve Assante

SANITARY DISTRICT

- 2022 Ray Breton, Chairman
- 2021 Lee Trahan
- 2022 Alfred Roy
- 2023 vacant
- 2023 Rebecca Goodrich, Treasurer

RECREATION COMMITTEE

- 2021 Danielle Sullivan, Director
- 2021 Christian Robinson
- 2021 Kevin Libby
- 2021 Mary Presti
- 2021 Marc Cote
- 2021 Becky Jenkins
- 2021 Charlie Plourde
- 2021 Jamie Willett

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

- 2023 Betsy Poulin
- 2022 Steve Jones
- 2023 Holly Weidner
- 2021 Chris French
- 2021 David Jenney
- 2022 Patricia King
- 2021 Peggy Horner

TOWN CLERK

- 2021 Catherine Coyne

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

- 2021 Jane Aiudi
- 2021 Russell Smith
- 2021 Tom Richards
- 2021 Steve Asante
- 2021 David Jenney
- 2021 Sue Haines, Chair
- 2021 Jody Kundreskas

TRAILS COMMITTEE

- 2021 Maverick Lowery
- 2021 Richard Behr
- 2021 Meredith Cain
- 2021 Holly Weidner
- 2021 John Melrose, Chair
- 2021 Paul Oxley
- 2021 Paul Mitnik

FIRST RESPONDER SERVICE

- 2021 Dan Mayotte, Director
- 2021 Paul Begin, Ass't Director

FIRE CHIEF

- 2021 Walker Thompson

POLICE CHIEF

- 2021 Mark Brown

HEALTH OFFICER

- 2021 Morgan Titus Rau

KENNEBEC WATER DISTRICT TRUSTEE

- 2022 Frank Richards

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 15

- Matthew Pouliot
- Matt.Pouliot@legislature.maine.gov

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 80

- Richard T. Bradstreet
- Dick.Bradstreet@legislature.maine.gov



Maine Municipalities

Maine Municipalities

Maine Municipalities

Go Solar

Go Solar at No Upfront Cost

In late 2020, Maine's first multi-town solar project (pictured below) went live. The 4-megawatt array in Skowhegan is ReVision Energy's largest project to date, and is generating clean, renewable energy for the City of Rockland, the Towns of Topsham, Rangeley, Dover-Foxcroft, Vassalboro, and the Vassalboro Community School. This type of project is possible because of LD 1711,

passed in 2019, which enables municipalities, schools, and businesses to use solar credits through Net Energy Billing, regardless of where the array is located. The communities have no upfront costs but have a contract to buy locally produced power at a discounted rate.

For local municipalities, these arrays are changing the future of energy. Maine has an abundance of land which cannot be used for farming, conservation, or recreation. ReVision Energy sites the solar arrays in accordance with Maine Audubon's Thoughtfully Sited Solar guidelines, and builds projects of up to 5 MW. The Net Energy Billing program allows offtakers like the City of Rockland to buy Net Energy Billing Credits at a discounted rate and offset their electric use with clean, renewable energy - at no upfront cost! There is no investment, there is no maintenance, and there are no taxes. This year ReVision Energy is building more of these projects, including one currently under construction in Sidney.

Photo contributed by Revision Energy



Solar Array in Skowhegan that is generating renewable energy for multiple municipalities, including Vassalboro.

Solar Committee

John Melrose
Chairman

Solar Committee

Solar Committee

Maine's First Multi-Town Solar Project

This 10,500-panel solar array, built by Revision Energy in 2020, offsets nearly 85% of the electricity used by the Town of Vassalboro and the Vassalboro Community School. Vassalboro shares this energy with four other Maine local governments. The 4-megawatt project valued at nearly \$7 million is located in Skowhegan. It provides stable, reduced cost power while offsetting more than 5 million pounds of CO2 annually. As Vassalboro approaches its 250th year since incorporation, we celebrate this solar array going on line in 2021 with the expectation that it will save Vassalboro taxpayers \$590,000 over 20 years.

In 2019 Vassalboro voters at Town Meeting directed the Select Board to enter into a multi-year solar power purchase agreement "provided the agreement yields annual net electrical cost savings to the Town". The Board created a Solar Committee to work through the details and report back with a recommendation to the Select Board and the School Board. The Committee members were Don Breton, Jessica Clark, Art Kingdon, John Melrose, Barb Redmond, John Ruethe and Clough Toppan. The Committee is now disbanded but their efforts in creating this financial and environmental success are greatly appreciated.

Photo contributed by Revision Energy



Solar array ribbon cutting event.

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 reflect on 2020, an incredibly challenging year for Maine families, small businesses, and communities.

When the pandemic struck, our country faced the specter of an overwhelmed health care system and devastation to our small businesses and the millions of people they employ. I immediately worked with Republicans and Democrats to pass multiple laws allocating approximately \$3 trillion to respond to this public health and economic crisis, including more than \$8 billion directed to Maine to support testing, schools, the economy, and other purposes — that is nearly double Maine's annual state budget.

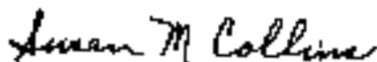
I am especially proud of the bipartisan Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) I co-authored. This program has provided three out of four Maine small businesses with nearly \$2.3 billion in forgivable loans, which has helped sustain more than 250,000 Maine jobs. I have met thousands of Maine small employers and employees in all 16 counties who are surviving because of the PPP. As one small business owner told me, the PPP provided “exactly what we needed at exactly the right time.” The PPP also allowed employers to maintain benefits, such as health care, during this challenging time. Another round of PPP is needed to sustain small businesses and their employees.

While the pandemic continues across Maine, our nation, and the world, I thank the first responders, health care professionals, teachers, grocery store employees, factory workers, farmers, truck drivers, postal employees, and so many others who continue to stay on the job during this difficult time. With the deployment of the first vaccines, better tests, and the incredible speed with which these life-saving responses were developed, I am hopeful we can emerge from this crisis in the next few months.

While providing relief to American families was my focus throughout 2020, other accomplishments include the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, which provides full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and addresses the maintenance backlog at our national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges. As Chairman of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, in 2020 alone, I secured \$132 million to improve Maine's roads, bridges, airports, buses, rail, ferries, and seaports. Finally, as Chairman of the Aging Committee, I led the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, which funds programs that improve the well-being, independence, and health of our nation's seniors and their caregivers, and I authored laws to reduce the cost of prescription drugs and protect individuals with Alzheimer's disease.

As the end of 2020 is approaching, I have cast more than 7,535 votes, never having missed one. In the New Year, my focus remains to work with colleagues to find common ground on policies to help support the health and safety of Mainers and the safe, responsible opening of our communities. If ever I or my staff can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact one of my state offices. May the coming year be a successful one for you, your family, your community, and our state.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Senate of Maine

Senate of Maine

Dear Friends,

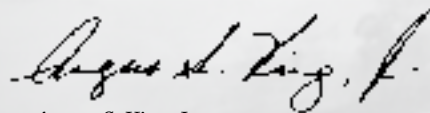
2020 was a year unlike any in our lifetimes. Our state and nation dealt with unprecedented challenges—the coronavirus pandemic, ensuing economic fallout, and a prolonged, heavily divisive campaign season each took a significant toll on all of us. The worst part? In order to protect each other, we had to face these challenges in isolation. But a new year represents new possibilities; a chance to take stock of what we're grateful for and focus on the opportunities in front of us. As we reflect back on 2020, we will remember heartbreak and loss – but we cannot forget the shining rays of hope that broke through the darkness, reminding us all that better days are ahead.

Throughout the pandemic, my top focus has been on bridging the partisan divide in Washington in order to deliver desperately-needed relief for Maine people. Joined by colleagues last March, we pushed for bipartisan negotiations to produce a strong bill that helped fellow Mainers, businesses, and institutions weather this storm. In the weeks and months after the CARES Act passed, our team stayed in close contact with people throughout the state to determine how we should adjust our response to best support our citizens. Unfortunately, the aid provided by the CARES Act lapsed without Congressional action, leaving too many families and businesses in limbo. I never stopped pushing for a bipartisan relief bill and, after extensive negotiations, we ended the year on a good note by breaking the gridlock and passing new relief legislation. This new bill isn't perfect; in fact, it should just be the start our renewed response. As we enter 2021 with a new administration and new Congress, we must fight for additional legislation to help restore stability to our working families and rebuild our economy and public health infrastructure.

In the midst of this crisis, Congress did manage to accomplish a few successes that will outlast this awful pandemic. Among these was the Great American Outdoors Act, a bipartisan bill which was enacted into law in August 2020 and will help address a \$12 billion backlog at our national parks so future generations of Americans can enjoy these beautiful lands and create lifelong memories. Also, as we learn more about the recent hacks of our nation's networks, there is help on the way: 27 of the cybersecurity recommendations made by the Cyberspace Solarium Commission – which I co-chair with Republican Congressman Mike Gallagher – made it into this year's defense bill. While there is no guarantee that these provisions would have prevented the massive hack, they will certainly improve our cyber defenses.

Despite the challenges, I'm hopeful for the future. Vaccines are being distributed across our state – starting with our healthcare heroes, who have sacrificed so much throughout this unprecedented catastrophe and deserve our eternal gratitude. If there can be a silver lining from these challenges of 2020, maybe it will be this: I hope that, in the not-so distant future, we will be able to come together physically and we will be reminded of our love for each other. We have differences, without a doubt. But as Maine people stepped up to support each other, we saw again and again that our differences pale in comparison to the values we share. We are one state, and one community – and there is nothing we cannot or will not do for each other. Mary and I wish you a happy and healthy 2021. We can't wait to see you soon.

Best Regards,



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Senate of Maine

Senate of Maine

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Let me begin by thanking you for allowing me the honor of serving you in the Maine Senate. I am grateful that you have put your trust in me and can assure you I will continue to work tirelessly on your behalf.

As you are no doubt aware, Maine is in the midst of the one of its greatest difficulties, both in public health and economic downturn. The 130th Maine Legislature faces the challenge posed by a \$1.4 billion budget shortfall, and perhaps more than ever before, state government must learn to live within its means.

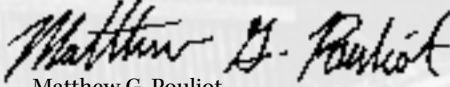
As we move through the Legislative session I will be mindful of this and will do my best to hold the line on any new taxes or unneeded borrowing. Like you and your family, state government must tighten its belt in slow economic times and make the difficult, but necessary decisions that will allow us to weather the storm.

At the same time, it is very important that we restore a sense of balance in state government where both the Governor and the Legislature work together on behalf of you, our constituents. This is even more important given the unusual nature of how and where this Legislature will meet, given the safety considerations required by the global pandemic. However the legislative process plays out, it is imperative that the public continue to have access to and play a critical role in the work of the Legislature. These will be a few of my priorities this coming year.

In addition to working on these important issues, I look forward to serving as the Assistant Senate Republican Leader and serving on the Taxation Committee.

Again, thank you for electing me to serve you in the State Senate. The 130th Legislature certainly has a great deal of work to do, but I believe that if we come together, there is nothing we can't accomplish. Please feel free to contact me at 287-1505 or matt.pouliot@legislature.maine.gov if you have comments, questions or if you would like assistance in navigating our state's bureaucracy.

Sincerely,



Matthew G. Pouliot

State Senator



House of Representatives

House of Representatives

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is an honor to serve the residents of House District #80 in the Maine Legislature. I take this responsibility incredibly seriously and I look forward to helping you in any way I can.

As you are well aware, this past year has brought unprecedented challenges to our country, the State of Maine and in our own communities.

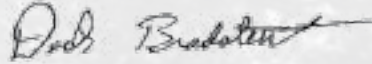
I am very often reminded of how fortunate we are to be residents in an area where values and trust are paramount. Friends and neighbors look out for each other while we continue to support those that need it most.

While I serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing, the most immediate work will involve tough economic choices as we develop the next biennium budget covering fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

I encourage you to actively participate in your state government. Meetings and hearings are now even more accessible by using the homepage of the Maine Legislature: Legislature.Maine.Gov. I also send a weekly email with current state news. If you'd like to receive these updates, please contact me at Dick.Bradstreet@legislature.maine.gov.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve you in Augusta. Please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,



Richard T. Bradstreet
State Representative



Congress of the United States

Congress of the United States

Dear Friends,

2020 has been a year of unconscionable loss and hardship. The COVID-19 pandemic has ravaged our nation, magnifying long-unaddressed inequities. I hear daily from constituents whose lives have been upended by the pandemic. As we navigate these ongoing challenges, my top priority in Congress has been to advocate for the resources Maine residents, businesses, and institutions need to weather this crisis.

In March, the CARES Act was signed into law, providing much-needed relief to Mainers, including expanded unemployment benefits, stimulus checks, grants and loans for small businesses and nonprofits, and funding for health care providers on the front lines of this crisis. As this crisis wore on, I saw increased need; that's why I voted for the Heroes Act in May and again in October to provide further support. I'm relieved we passed another relief package at the end of December, but I know another round of support is still much needed in the coming year.

The pandemic isn't the only crisis we face. Climate change threatens Maine's environment and industries. This summer, the Gulf of Maine recorded its hottest day, and we experienced the longest, most severe drought in 20 years. Maine farms continue to be stymied by climate change, but they can also play a crucial role in combatting it. In February, I introduced the Agriculture Resilience Act to ensure American agriculture is net-zero by 2045. The release of Maine's Climate Action Plan is a major step in the fight against climate change. I will continue to work with state leaders to ensure they have federal support to achieve this agenda.

2021 will offer different challenges. We must distribute a vaccine to millions, restore jobs, uplift the economy, and repair the divisions that undermine our ability to make meaningful change. I look forward to working with the incoming presidential administration to meet these challenges and emerge as a stronger, more resilient nation.

As always, the needs of Mainers guide my work as we recover from this crisis. If there is anything my office can do to help, please reach out.

Sincerely,



Chellie Pingree

Member of Congress



Registrar of Voters

Catherine Coyne
Registrar of Voters

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

The Presidential Primary/Referendum Election was held on March 3, 2020. 499 ballots were cast on the Democratic ballot with 167 votes going to Joseph R. Biden Jr., 148 votes going to Bernard Sanders and 81 to Michael R. Bloomberg. All other votes went to various candidates. On the Republican ballot, 385 ballots were cast for Donald Trump. 58 ballots were blank.

Then Covid-19 happened. This threw a bit of a curveball with many new guidelines in place.

The Statewide and local Election which is normally held in June was moved to July 14th. In order to meet the 6' distance from

Registrar of Voters

Registrar of Voters

individuals, it was decided to hold the Election at the Vassalboro Community School gymnasium. With a ruler in hand and assistance from Mary Sabins, Town Manager, the Public Works crew and the schools maintenance dept., tables were set up for incoming voting, markers were placed on the floor depicting 6' separation, desks were set up to be used as voting booths and placed 6' apart, tabletop protective shields placed to protect voters and workers and sanitation stations set up thru out.

Barbara Redmond, with 694 votes, was chosen for Selectmen/Overseer of the Poor. Zachary Smith and Erin Loiko won positions on the School Committee.

On November 3, 2020, the General Election was held. This also created a challenge. The Election was set to be held at the Vassalboro School but due to an outbreak of Covid-19

in the school community, the Election was moved back to the Town Office 2 days before Election. Barriers were set up to outside to meet the state mandated social distancing requirement causing a line around the building. Vassalboro voters chose Donald Trump with 1,394 votes. Joseph Biden received 1,075 votes. 1,160 Absentee Ballots were requested for this Election. It was a VERY busy election!!

At the printing of this report, there are 3,431 registered voters.

The breakdown is as follows:

Democratic = 1010

Green = 155

Unenrolled = 1086

Republican = 1178

Peoples Party = 2



Photo by Cathy Coyne

July 14th Primary Election at the school.

Kennebec Land Trust

Kennebec Land Trust

Kennebec Land Trust

Kim Vandermeulen
President

Since 1988, with the support of 1,100 member households and over forty Maine businesses, the Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) has worked cooperatively with landowners and communities to conserve our region's natural resources. KLT holds conservation easements on, accepts gifts of, and purchases significant lands to further the mission of the organization.

Last year KLT published the second edition of our popular hiking guide- *Take a Hike!* which features thirty-two of our properties including the Davidson Nature Preserve, the Seaward Mills Conservation Area, and the Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat. On these properties residents and visitors can hike, collect blueberries, observe wildlife, and enjoy the natural scenery. You can purchase a copy of *Take a Hike!* from Fieldstone Garden.

As landowners in your town, we contribute to Vassalboro's local tax base since our properties are enrolled in the open space tax program.

KLT offers a great selection of outings and educational programs for the public and we collaborate with schools and other organizations to engage youth and share our conservation message with the community. Please call our office for information about our 2021 field trips and programs. We are planning a summer full moon hike on a KLT Vassalboro property – we hope you can join us.

We are grateful to the Town of Vassalboro for your cooperation and support. Thank you to Vassalboro residents who support KLT as members or volunteers and who

serve on the Conservation Commission or Trails Committee.

We welcome this opportunity to communicate with Vassalboro residents and the Selectboard about our conservation work. Do not hesitate to contact us for more information, 207-377-2848 or info@tklt.org. You may also visit our website, www.tkl.org for trail maps, directions, and more information about our organization.

Thank you very much for your past support of KLT and land conservation.

Police Department

Police Department

The calls for service in the Town of Vassalboro continue to keep law enforcement agencies busy. This past year, we have had an unusual change in calls for service. Police are now responding to "mask complaints" at local business's where customers are not wearing the State mandated mask to enter the premises due to COVID19. Please assist in compliance with these issues while in public areas.

Serious motor vehicle accidents, especially on Riverside Drive, were also on the increase in 2020. The accidents were caused for various reasons. Most of these accidents appear to have been caused from driver inattention or distraction, as well as driving under the influence. Please slow down when approaching all emergency vehicles at scenes and pass with caution to ensure the safety of all the emergency responders.

We have attempted to promote police visibility over the past year by marking the Town's cruiser in the traditional "black and white" with "The Town of Vassalboro" design to promote a police presence.

As always, I work jointly with the Kennebec Sheriff's Office and Maine State Police in providing police services for the Town. I also continue to assist the Vassalboro Fire Department, Vassalboro First Responders and Delta Ambulance throughout the year.

I would like to also take this opportunity to thank all the citizens of our Town for their continued support of my position within the Town of Vassalboro, as well as the support for all our law enforcement throughout the State of Maine during these trying times.

Lastly, rather than report incidents via social media, please call me or our Communications



Police Department
Mark Brown
Police Chief

Center with any questions or concerns within our Town. I can be reached by cell phone (207) 557-4601 or email me at mbrown@vassalboro.net. Our Town's Regional Communications Center can be contacted at (207) 624-7076 or **911 for all emergency calls.**



New Town Cruiser.

Photo by Mark Brown

Town Clerk Report

Catherine Coyne
Registrar of Voters

Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Report



Photo by Mary Sabins

Town Office Staff (L to R):
Front row: Deputy Clerk Kayla Krause, Town Clerk Cathy Coyne, Bookkeeper Jean Poulin
Back row: Assessor Ellery Bane, Code Officer Paul Mitnik, Town Manager Mary Sabins

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

In August, we said goodbye to Deputy Clerk Debbie Johnston-Nixon as she and her husband ventured off to warmer climates and we welcomed Kayla Krause as the new Deputy Clerk. Kayla comes to us with previous municipal experience and fit right in during a very busy Election year. If you haven’t met her yet, please stop in and say hello!

Photo by Cathy Coyne



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 license 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 at our office.

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. Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the late fee of \$25.00 per dog for dogs not licensed in 2020 will not begin until June 1st, 2021. You can reach the Animal Control Officer, Peter Nerber at 242-6251.

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. If you are in need of assistance when the office is closed, please contact Police Chief Mark Brown at 557-4601.

Town Clerk Report

The following are Marriage Licenses that were recorded from March 3, 2020 – February 28, 2021.

PARTY A	PARTY B	DATE MARRIED
Bergmann, Michael Adam	Morin, Stephanie Lynn	05/21/2020
Magoon, Dakin Bernard	Henault, Bryana Mae	05/28/2020
Garcia, Samara Ravan	Powers, Erik Dant	06/13/2020
Cook, Renee Jean	McCausland, Dean Robert	06/27/2020
Agosta, Tara Marie	Whitman, James Arthur	07/04/2020
Beckim, Melanie Elyse	Estabrook, Sean Edward	07/05/2020
Wright, Donald George	Rodriguez, Toni Marie	07/20/2020
Green, Chelsea Lee	Cloutier, Gavin Meader	07/23/2020
Lemieux, Jacob Philip	Basham, Sara Nicole	07/25/2020
Luczko, Samantha Lee	Storey, Brian Bentley	08/08/2020
Brown, Codey Gayle	Begin, Reuben Isaac	08/15/2020
Peabody, Marlena Mary	Peabody, Lawrence Edward	08/15/2020
Ferguson, April Lynn	Whitmore, Lance Edward	08/08/2020
Goodrich, Raymond Guy	LePage, Rachel Kara-Lynn	08/23/2020
Green, Dillyn Jacob	Batchelder, Danielle Anne	09/05/2020
Allen, Albert David Jr.	Clark, Dale Swift	09/21/2020
Moy, Noreen Cruz	Grenier, Brent James	10/10/2020
Goforth, Ashely Anne	Daigneault, Jonathan Derek	10/10/2020
Cayouette, Angelina T.	Morissette, Brandon Robert	10/17/2020
Brusco, Colby Leon	Veilleux, Jade Marie	11/18/2020
Crowley, France Mary	Ouellette, Daniel Emile	12/30/2020
Harris, Anna Rae	Karlsson, Kurt Halmar	02/18/2021

There were 47 births to Vassalboro residents from March 2, 2020 – February 23, 2021.

Vital Statistic information listed below pertains to deaths from March 2, 2019 – March 1, 2020.

IN MEMORY OF	AGE	LOCATION	DATE OF DEATH
Arnold, Bruce Paul	63	Augusta	03/13/2020
Richards, Patricia Ann	75	Lewiston	03/13/2020
Grant, Norman V.	65	Vassalboro	03/15/2020
Buckmore, Sandra L.	76	Vassalboro	03/23/2020
Duplessie, Norman Everett Jr.	71	Togus USVA	03/26/2020
Wood, Ronald L.	77	Waterville	03/29/2020
Getchell, Eleanor S.	87	Waterville	04/10/2020
Hughes, Todd Wayne	53	Augusta	04/10/2020
Howard, James B.	79	Augusta	04/16/2020
Knowles, Irving Paul	77	Togus USVA	04/25/2020
Gagnon, Joseph L.	63	Vassalboro	05/19/2020
Kaufman, Ronald Philip	78	Bangor	06/20/2020
Greenleaf, Muriel Euna	90	Vassalboro	06/29/2020
Kulpa, Arthur G.	66	Vassalboro	07/09/2020
Pokladok, Philip P.	71	Vassalboro	07/14/2020
Rowe, Rosemary	89	Vassalboro	08/04/2020
Trahan, Betty J.	85	Waterville	08/30/2020
Garland, Charles W.	60	Vassalboro	08/31/2020
Roderick, Michelle A.	70	Vassalboro	09/08/2020
Clark, Naomi June	91	Vassalboro	09/18/2020
Gallant, Virginia Bess	93	Waterville	09/22/2020
Whalen, John R.	73	Vassalboro	09/22/2020
Bergeron, Estelle Catherine	94	Vassalboro	10/11/2020
Bragdon, Barbara M.	88	Vassalboro	10/14/2020
Hart, Paul R Sr.	80	Vassalboro	10/21/2020
Reed, Brian Alexander	62	Lewiston	10/22/2020
Lamothe, Sandra Joan	73	Vassalboro	10/30/2020
Ricketts, Mary E.	59	Vassalboro	11/03/2020
Leach, Peter J. Jr	51	Lewiston	11/05/2020
Gillum, Irene Nilsen	96	Vassalboro	12/12/2020
Richard, John Stephen	59	Vassalboro	12/20/2020
Roy, Lori Ann	54	Vassalboro	12/29/2020
Sleamaker, Patricia A.	89	Waterville	01/23/2021
Giroux, Carmen Lucille	76	Augusta	01/31/2021
Hughes, Cathryn Mary	57	Vassalboro	02/04/2021
Widell, Kevin Francis	66	Vassalboro	02/11/2021

Unpaid Personal Property Taxes

Unpaid Personal Property Taxes As of 02/25/2021

Acct	Name	Year	Original Tax	Payment / Adjustments	Amount Due
184	P BRAGDON, PETER	2018	363.08	124.56	238.52
184	P BRAGDON, PETER	2019	366.60	0.00	366.60
99	P BUTTERFIELD, LINDA	2015	319.21	0.00	319.21
99	P BUTTERFIELD, LINDA	2016	327.37	0.00	327.37
99	P BUTTERFIELD, LINDA	2017	339.02	0.00	339.02
99	P BUTTERFIELD, LINDA	2018	108.15	0.00	108.15
201	P CAIN & SONS EQUIPMENT	2016	42.15	0.00	42.15
201	P CAIN & SONS EQUIPMENT	2017	42.20	0.00	42.20
201	P CAIN & SONS EQUIPMENT	2018	44.80	0.00	44.80
201	P CAIN & SONS EQUIPMENT	2019	43.68	0.00	43.68
391	P CUTT-IT-OUT	2018	46.35	0.00	46.35
391	P CUTT-IT-OUT	2019	46.80	0.00	46.80
206	P DUNN BUILDERS, INC	2019	53.04	37.90	15.14
390	P HEAVENLY DELIGHTS	2017	46.56	0.00	46.56
390	P HEAVENLY DELIGHTS	2018	44.80	0.00	44.80
390	P HEAVENLY DELIGHTS	2019	40.56	0.00	40.56
406	P KC'S AUTO	2019	78.00	0.00	78.00
381	P KELLEY, MICHAEL P	2019	124.80	0.00	124.80
314	P NOLL, ETHAN E	2019	117.00	0.00	117.00
314	P NOLL, ETHAN E.	2015	102.75	0.00	102.75
314	P NOLL, ETHAN E.	2016	105.38	0.00	105.38
314	P NOLL, ETHAN E.	2017	109.13	0.00	109.13
314	P NOLL, ETHAN E.	2018	115.87	0.00	115.87
146	P SYLVESTER, FRED	2018	20.08	0.00	20.08
Total for 24 Bills:					
10 Accounts			3,047.38	162.46	2,884.92

Unpaid Real Estate Taxes

Unpaid Real Estate Taxes As of 02/25/2021

Acct	Name	Year	Original Tax	Payment / Adjustments	Amount Due
71	L BAILEY, PAULA	2019	1,384.63	0.00	1,384.63
92	L BATCHELDER, DANIELLE	2019	897.07	0.00	897.07
117	L BECKWITH, ALEX	2019	933.22	0.00	933.22
163	L BLUMBERG, SARA (HEIRS OF)	2019	1,779.19	0.00	1,779.19
2287	L BOURGET, BRUCE K	2019	1,610.65	0.00	1,610.65
294	L BROWN, MARK	2019	264.75	0.00	264.75
3221	L BROWN, MARK L	2019	599.15	0.00	599.15
1995	L BUCKLEY, KIM P	2019	400.95	339.54	61.41
2480	L BURNS, RICHARD	2019	3,275.68	0.00	3,275.68
1524	L BUTTERFIELD, LINDA	2019	2,715.52	0.00	2,715.52
1528	L BUTTERFIELD, LINDA	2019	2,058.45	0.00	2,058.45

Unpaid Real Estate Taxes

Acct	Name	Year	Original Tax	Payment / Adjustments	Amount Due
1847	L CAYOUILTE, MICHAEL R	2019	3,023.36	0.00	3,023.36
2804	L CAYOUILTE, MICHAEL R	2019	449.84	0.00	449.84
1332	L CHARETTE, OLIN C	2019	1,853.12	0.00	1,853.12
402	L CHARETTE, OLIN J	2019	1,858.05	0.00	1,858.05
3277	L CHASE, MAVIS	2019	253.98	0.00	253.98
447	L CONARY, CRAIG D	2019	1,277.85	0.00	1,277.85
1836	L COOK, RYAN	2019	133.23	0.00	133.23
1145	L COSTON, JAMES G	2019	3,948.18	862.98	3,085.20
548	L D & E REALTY INC	2019	1,186.19	0.00	1,186.19
1125	L DIXON, MARK	2018	543.02	-37.50	580.52
1125	L DIXON, MARK	2019	545.21	0.00	545.21
1126	L DIXON, MARK	2018	326.03	-37.50	363.53
1126	L DIXON, MARK	2019	330.02	0.00	330.02
273	L DUPRE, ERIC	2019	350.39	0.00	350.39
339	L EVERETT, WENDY J	2019	3,403.80	0.00	3,403.80
1137	L EWING, PETER	2019	991.05	0.00	991.05
3458	L FROST, EMILY L	2019	1,730.58	0.00	1,730.58
856	L FULLER, KEITH L	2019	355.21	0.00	355.21
2777	L GIDNEY, ADAM J	2019	1,401.71	0.00	1,401.71
2099	L GRAY, PATRICIA C	2019	1,314.14	0.00	1,314.14
1905	L GREENLEAF, IVERS	2019	714.07	0.00	714.07
77	L HARVILLE, THOMAS W	2019	1,844.25	0.00	1,844.25
1820	L HOWARD, KEITH W	2019	1,062.00	42.08	1,019.92
3136	L IBBITSON, THOMAS S	2019	282.72	0.00	282.72
3136	L IBBITSON, THOMAS S.	2018	279.40	-9.90	289.30
1107	L JENNESS, ROSE	2019	871.58	580.65	290.93
1153	L JOSEPH, FRANCIS E, TRUSTEE	2019	1,388.57	0.00	1,388.57
2936	L JURDAK, STEVEN	2019	831.04	0.00	831.04
2429	L KARTMAN, MICHAEL J SR	2019	705.87	0.00	705.87
3341	L KELLEY, MICHAEL P	2019	847.80	0.00	847.80
1350	L KERBY, TODD	2019	435.48	0.00	435.48
3032	L KINRADE, DARCIE	2019	330.67	33.74	296.93
1643	L LOISEL, TERRY	2019	667.10	0.00	667.10
1169	L MARCOUX, EDWARD H	2019	1,823.13	0.00	1,823.13
337	L MARTIN, DIANA L	2019	155.50	0.00	155.50
1545	L MASON, LEVI	2019	796.88	0.00	796.88
2885	L MCCAUSLAND, CRAIG	2019	1,169.10	0.00	1,169.10
2318	L MCKEE, MELISA L	2019	889.20	0.00	889.20
2529	L MCNEIL, WILLIAM	2019	438.96	287.99	150.97
2582	L MOORE, DAN	2019	196.86	0.00	196.86
997	L MORIN, ANDREA JEAN	2019	65.88	0.00	65.88
3480	L OUELLETTE, JANICE	2019	274.25	0.00	274.25
2523	L PEASLEE, DANIEL	2019	2,350.52	0.00	2,350.52
252	L R.J.BRETON PROPERTIES, LLC.	2019	2,551.25	0.00	2,551.25
2212	L R.J.BRETON PROPERTIES, LLC.	2019	4,077.64	0.00	4,077.64
2272	L R.J.BRETON PROPERTIES, LLC.	2019	4,222.18	0.00	4,222.18
2910	L RICHARDS, JEFF	2019	166.74	0.00	166.74
1303	L RONCO, EILEEN LINDBERG	2019	1,501.91	0.00	1,501.91
1950	L ROWE, URBAN JR	2019	983.15	0.00	983.15



Unpaid Real Estate Taxes

Acct	Name	Year	Original Tax	Payment / Adjustments	Amount Due
1997	L SHIPLEY, EUGENE E SR	2019	1,058.59	296.47	762.12
3454	L SMART, JESSICA O	2019	481.48	0.00	481.48
78	L SOPER, RUSSELL H	2019	295.85	0.00	295.85
2064	L SPAULDING, WILLIAM H	2019	2,179.30	0.00	2,179.30
599	L STARRATT, ROBERT W., JR.	2018	183.22	-16.80	200.02
599	L STARRATT, ROBERT W., JR.	2019	171.34	0.00	171.34
690	L SUGA, RICHARD	2019	547.18	0.00	547.18
1669	L SUGA, RICHARD J	2019	174.95	0.00	174.95
1670	L SUGA, RICHARD J	2019	174.95	0.00	174.95
2119	L SUGA, RICHARD J	2019	482.13	0.00	482.13
2127	L SUGA, RICHARD J	2019	2,512.16	0.00	2,512.16
2576	L SUGA, RICHARD J	2019	340.54	0.00	340.54
3021	L SUGA, RICHARD J	2019	2,386.00	0.00	2,386.00
2457	L SUGA, RICHARD JOSEPH	2019	828.73	0.00	828.73
1397	L THE OLD MILL PLACE, LLC.	2019	4,568.80	0.00	4,568.80
2172	L THOMPSON, PETER	2019	1,201.64	0.00	1,201.64
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
2088	L TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2017	1,160.11	-9.80	1,169.91
2088	L TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2018	1,234.76	0.00	1,234.76
2088	L TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2019	1,251.89	0.00	1,251.89
243	L WATERHOUSE, JASON M	2019	707.17	0.00	707.17
1056	L WEEKS, ALISON	2019	1,615.25	0.00	1,615.25
2313	L WENTWORTH, DAVID JR	2019	607.97	0.00	607.97
1866	L WOOD, SHANE	2019	991.37	0.00	991.37
2382	L WOOD, SHANE	2019	830.39	0.00	830.39
2451	L WOOD, SHANE	2019	832.04	0.00	832.04
2384	L WOOLEY, MARCIA L	2019	894.11	0.00	894.11
Total for 104 Bills:					
80 Accounts			128,193.99	2,231.92	125,962.07

Food Station Pantry

Food Station Pantry

Food Station Pantry

Cindy Ferland
Executive Director

Along with most everyone else on the planet the Vassalboro Food Station Pantry has had to re-invent most every aspect of its operation. The social distancing mandate virtually eliminated the practice of allowing consumers from coming in to pick out the foods they would eat. It also limited the number of volunteers allowed inside the building to a maximum of five. The only viable solution was to adopt a drive-up distribution model that would distance consumers from volunteers. The added work of making up the food boxes coupled with the restricted number of volunteers allowed on site has presented challenges. Basically, more work to do with less people to get it done. A core team of dedicated volunteers have really stepped up to ensure the struggling people in the community have access to healthy food.

The Pantry board members want to sincerely thank all the dedicated hard-working volunteers that donate their time and energy each and every week to help this community be the best it can be. In the face of this pandemic the generous donations from so many wonderful townspeople has proven how greatly caring this community truly is. The Pantry Board members wish to thank all the individuals whom have generously donated to ensure we can continue our mission of helping the most vulnerable and less fortunate people in our community.

The Vassalboro Food Station Pantry, Board Members, and volunteers wish to extend a huge THANK YOU to these generous and loyal supporters of the pantry in 2020. **Insource Renewables-donated Solar System & Labor. **John & Elizabeth Reuthe, **Mid State Machine Foundation, **Cami Denico, **Wayne Bowers, **Dana & Lynn Sumner, **Town of Vassalboro and employees, Ferris Variety-employees and Richard Ferris, Maine Savings Federal Credit Union of Vassalboro-employees, the two Hannaford Stores of Augusta for donating every Thursday, Country Kitchen of Waterville for weekly donations, Gary Clark for plowing, Good Shepherd Food Bank, Jeremy & Tambara Boudreau's

Heating, Tom's Rubbish Removal-John Green for weekly trash removal, Riverside Congregation Church, Vassalboro United Methodist Church, Sappi of Skowhegan & Danny Wacekens, Harvey Boatman, Jim & Deb Peacock, Margaret Dowdy, Art & Linda Kingdon, Gary & Judy Hubley, William & Judy Whitney, Dianne Hogendorn, Elizabeth Mitchell, Curt & Emelie Ferland, John & Molly Melrose, Peter & Susan Linscott, Deb Hopkins & Bob, Paul & Barbara Nelson, William & Carolyn Browne, Sally Luce, Susan Tuthill, Lisa Lapointe, George Miller, Debby Cabaniss, Susan Taylor, Field of Greens-Albion, David & Ann Souza, Richard Lemieux & family, Full Circle Farm-B & J Welch, United Way of Waterville, Greg & RoseMarie Fortin, Don & Lisa Breton, Priscilla Doel, George Jones, Laura Jones, Pamela Blais, Marcia & Don Tyrol, Harold Spear, Patricia Karush, Ann E. Rhinehardt-Clark, Barbara & Peggy Horner, Francis & Mary Zmigrodski, Winslow Community Fed. Cr. Union, Kennebec Savings Bank, Kennebec Retired Educators Assoc., Linda Fazier, Debbie Johnston-Nixon, John & Deb Titus, Kennebec Valley Board of Realtors, Lore Ferguson, Vassalboro Monthly Meeting of Friends, E. Pineau & C. Sonnier, Margaret Harrigan, George & Sandra Miller,

Jim & Rachel Kilbride-St. Bridget Center, Gary & Kim Wright, and the many more thoughtful anonymous donors in memory of James Horner, Charlotte Eastman, Marjorie Saporita.

Photo by Mary Sabins



Food Pantry on distribution day.

Photo by Cindy Ferland



Sample food offerings.

China Region Lakes Alliance

China Region Lakes Alliance

China Region Lakes Alliance

Scott A. Pierz

President

The China Region Lakes Alliance (CRLA) is a non-profit organization comprised of lake associations within the CRLA's Service area, including the China Lake Association, the Three Mile Pond Association, and the Webber Pond Association. Also, the Towns of Vassalboro, China and Windsor are represented, along with the interests of the Three-Cornered Pond Association in Augusta.

The CRLA operates two primary programs: The Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) Program, and the Youth Conservation Corps. The CBI staff inspects boats entering and exiting our region's waterbodies, looking for invasive aquatic plant species like Hydrilla and Milfoil that could infest a waterbody once introduced into that ecosystem. In 2020, notwithstanding the pandemic, the CBI Program was deemed by Governor Mills as an essential service to the boaters of Maine as well as visitors to our State, and the CBI Program operated on the four boat launches within the region serving China Lake, Webber Pond and Three Mile Pond.

For more information about how to help protect our waters from invasive aquatic plants, please go to: <https://www.lakestewardsofmaine.org/reporting-aquatic-species-6/>

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is that group of young lake stewards who take part in working on environmental projects, specifically concerning the LakeSmart Program. Based on the State's model, the LakeSmart Program designs vegetated buffers along the shoreline to reduce the impact of non-point source pollutants in stormwater before entering the lake.

With funding from a Davis Conservation Foundation Grant, in 2019 the CRLA conducted a pilot LakeSmart Program on Three Mile Pond. Using expertise from experts involved in the China LakeSmart Program, the CRLA was able to conduct some lakefront assessments, install two model buffers, and pique the interest of some Vassalboro residents who wanted to know more about the LakeSmart Program. Aside from the labor cost associated with the YCC, funds for the purchase of plants, soil and erosion control mulch, landscaping timbers, etc. are essential to install lakeside buffers, infiltration

steps, and conduct other best management practices to keep our lakes and ponds clean. To contribute to CRLA's LakeSmart effort, you can mail your tax-deductible donation to: China Region Lakes Alliance, P.O. Box 6339, China Village, Maine 04926.

The China Region Lakes Alliance and its Executive Board has endorsed and financially supported the goals of the Alewife Restoration Initiative (ARI), the effort to return the anadromous alewife to China Lake. Last year Maine Rivers' Executive Director, Landis Hudson, reported that ARI Project Manager Matt Streeter completed the "fish-way" at the Box Mills Dam in North Vassalboro. In 2021 the China Lake Outlet Dam will have its design engineered fish passage (or "fish-ladder") ready for installation. To donate to the Alewife Restoration Initiative, please send your tax-deductible contribution to Maine Rivers, P.O. Box 782, Yarmouth, Maine 04096.

The China Region Lakes Alliance has a Mission to operate programs to enhance the water quality of the region's primary resources, our lakes and ponds. CRLA will continue to promote the environmental health of our waterbodies, protecting them from invasive aquatic plants, and reducing the likelihood of algae blooms in our region.

For further information about the China Region Lakes Alliance, check out our website at <https://www.crlamaine.org> or email info@crla.org



Photo by Mary Sabins

China Lake

Cemetery Committee

Cemetery Committee

Cemetery Committee

Sue Haines
Chair

We have been busy on two long-term projects this year; one new this year, and one a continuation.

We are fortunate to have people trained and eager to restore stones in our cemeteries. This is a continuation from work done over the past several years and will continue for more to come. A lot of effort was in the Methodist, Oak Grove and Center Vassalboro Baptist Cemeteries. It involves cleaning stones as well as more major repairs to broken stones.

The other project, begun this year, is mapping the cemeteries and recording the data, not only found on the stone but information

that is able to be found from other sources. It includes the location of the stones and ownership. This can be valuable information when someone comes to the town office, looking for a burial site. We were able to hire an intern, through the Margaret Chase Smith Foundation, who did the work this summer, and have had a volunteer carry it on into the fall. The Cross Hill Cemetery has been completed and work continues on the North Village Cemetery. There is much more work to be done and we hope to continue this project.

In addition to those projects, we plan to repair the sign at the Methodist Cemetery, install a sign which is missing and reinstall another.



Before and After photos of stone repairwork contributed by Jody Kundreskas.

Historical Society

Jan Clowes
President

In spite of the pandemic, the Vassalboro Historical Society (VHS) had an amazing spring, summer, and fall. With our wonderful volunteers we were able to establish “Esther’s Kids’ Room, with toys, games, dial-up phones, treadle sewing machine, Victrola, and a typewriter, among other items. We hope that kids of all ages will enjoy this “Please Touch” room as soon as the CDC and Covid-19 allow. The room bears tribute to the late Esther Bernhardt, long-term VHS member, board member, volunteer, and friend.



Photo by Jan Clowes

The kids room at the museum.

Board members and volunteers have worked on a variety of tasks, while masked and socially distanced. They have:

- Accessioned items both physically and digitally, as items are carefully marked and recorded in our Past Present museum program.
- Other volunteers sanitized, cleaned, polished, typed, gardened, weeded, wound clocks, set up displays, gave tours, washed and sewed, organized, and more.
- Volunteers played the piano, organ, violin, and our three Victrolas bringing music to the museum. The acoustics are wonderful, enhancing the great music.

As you can see, volunteers have a large assortment of opportunities with different skill levels. Those with time and interest in volunteering are always welcome!

The Society presented the honorary ownership of Vassalboro’s Boston Post cane to the town’s oldest resident, T. Lois Bulger, who was born in April of 1922. Mrs. Bulger is the second recipient of the honor since the cane returned from California, when it was purchased by one of our founders, Betty Taylor in 1988. The previous honoree, Mrs. Louise Charlotte Seehagen Eastman, who passed away at age 101 in January, 2020.

In honor of Vassalboro’s 250th birthday in 2021, the Society reached out to a sculptor

Historical Society

Historical Society



Photo by Jan Clowes

T. Lois Bulger receives gold post cane.

We’ve held socially distanced, masked, and Zoom board meetings. The Board of Directors made the necessary decision to cancel our regular annual meeting, and instead have members respond to voting by mail, email, or phone. In this unique way, we elected two new board members, Samantha Lessard and David Theriault. We also created a new office, Membership Secretary, a position now held by Simone Antworth.

If you are interested in helping the Vassalboro Historical Society “celebrate and protect the heritage of our community” by becoming a member, please send your name, address, email address if available, telephone number, and payment to: ATTN: Membership Secretary, Vassalboro Historical Society, P.O. Box 13, North Vassalboro, ME 04962.

Annual membership levels are: \$12 (Under 65); \$8 (65 and Older); \$25 Family; and \$200 Business, as well as a one-time \$150 Lifetime membership.

Due to cold weather and COVID-19, Vassalboro Historical Society is open by appointment only until springtime. Those interested can leave a message by calling 207-923-3505. The Society is handicapped accessible.

regarding the possibility of repairing the Civil War monument, imagine our surprise when Vassalboro resident, Nate Gray discovered a piece of the missing rifle in Outlet Stream. We have already started reaching out to various groups to find grantors to raise the money for repairs.

Photo by Mary Sabins



Missing rifle pieces.

First Responders

First Responders

First Responders

**Daniel E Mayotte, Chief
CCEMT-Paramedic**

To say that the members of the Vassalboro First Responders have had an interesting year is an understatement. Our whole world was turned upside down with the COVID-19 pandemic. We quickly had a new set of rules and guidelines to follow which changed how we approach calls. It has created stress and frustration in both the members and the public we serve.

Because we never know what we are walking into, our use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has increased immensely. It also adds time to us getting to you. An example and the most serious calls of ours would be cardiac arrest. We are required to be fully protected in all of our PPE. That includes a N95-Mask, goggles, face shield, gown and gloves. That takes time to put on, and takes a toll on us. We are used to running in and helping the second we arrive on scene and now we are delayed more than ever.

All of that PPE we use has a cost, last year the budget committee and the Selectmen realized that the pandemic was going to effect the front line workers the most and allotted extra funds to help support the new added expenses. That has been huge as we fight along with all of the other agencies to get PPE. Delta Ambulance has also been a huge help in acquiring supplies as they have the purchasing power that we do not. We did

secure some reusable PPE items that have helped save us some funds.

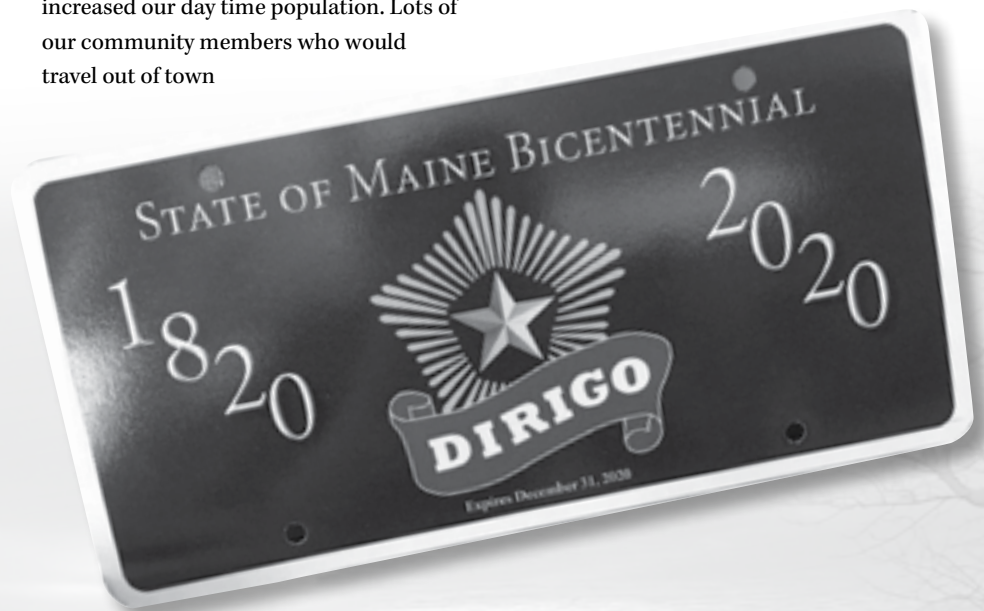
I think we have all noticed that the basic communications that we use to take for granted mean more to us now. One of the great things about responding to Vassalboro is that you often know the person walking through your front door to help you. Simple things like a smile can no longer be expressed due to the mask wearing. The people that rely on lip reading to hear and communicate really struggle. Even being able to crack a joke to lighten the mood has become harder. It is often hard to recognize the person you are looking at due to the volume of PPE we have on.

Another thing that happened this year is a noticeable increase in calls for service. We average about 350 calls a year and in 2020 it increased to 370 calls. I do not think it is directly related to COVID, more of a side effect. With the stay-at-home orders, it has increased our day time population. Lots of our community members who would travel out of town

for work, are now working from home thus increasing the amount of people we help.

We were able to obtain a grant this year to purchase life jackets. We have found that with the lakes, ponds and streams in our community we end up working along the water quite often. This will help us keep the members safe and uninjured.

Your volunteers will continue to respond to your calls for service. If you would like to join this amazing team, we are always looking for new people. We will send you to school and get you the training needed. Please feel free to reach out to us at vassalborofirstresponders@gmail.com.



Road Commissioner

Road Commissioner

Road Commissioner

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 2020 the Public Works crew prepared the roads to be paved by replacing culverts, ditching, cutting brush and trees back on the various roads scheduled to be paved. The following lists below are the roads that were paved in the summer of 2020.

Dunham Road –

all of it, approximately 1.9 miles.

Station Hill Road –

all of it, approximately .2 miles.

Alpine Street –

all of it, approximately .2 miles.

Getchell Corner Road –

all of it, approximately .6 miles.

Bog Road Extension –

all of it, approximately .1 mile.

Bog Road –

all of it, approximately 1.7 miles.

Town Garage –

driveway the front half of it.

The Town received seven bids for paving and had a high of \$77.50/ton to a low of \$70.50/ton. The Town chose to go with the bid from Pike Industries for \$71.50 a ton for the 9.5mm mix from their past work experience with them. This was a combined bid with Vassalboro and the Town of China. All of the roads were first shimmed then surfaced with one inch of 9.5 mm mix of pavement.

Paving cost:

Dunham Road –	
Shim - 800 tons	57,200.00
Surface – 1,122 tons	80,223.00
	<hr/>
	137,423.00
Station Hill road –	
Shim – 125 tons	8,937.50
Surface – 133 tons	9,509.50
	<hr/>
	18,447.00
Alpine Street –	
Shim – 92 tons	6,578.00
Surface – 123 tons	8,794.50
	<hr/>
	15,372.50



PW Staff (L to R): Shawn Bragg, PW Director Gene Field, Brian Lajoie, and Shane Cole.

Getchell Corner Road –

Shim – 243 tons	17,374.50
Surface – 368 tons	26,312.00
	<hr/>
	43,686.50

Bog Road Extension –

Shim – 20 tons	1,430.00
Surface – 24 tons	1,716.00
	<hr/>
	3,146.00

Bog Road –

Shim – 800.31 tons	57,222.17
Surface – 1,287.75 tons	92,074.13
	<hr/>
	149,296.30

Total \$367,371.30

Due to an escalation clause in the contract based on the liquid asphalt pricing, the Town received a credit of 10,012.43 So the adjusted total for the road paving is \$357,358.87

Town Garage (front section) – Was resurfaced with 9.5 mm mix at \$93.25/ton for a total cost of \$14,232.75

As of this writing the paving plan for the summer of 2021 is to do the following roads:

- Lombard Dam Road**
- Hussey Hill Road (east)**
- Taber Hill Road** from (Hussey Hill Road intersection to the Bog Road intersection).
- Stone Road**

As the budget is still being discussed at this time there are questions whether we can do both the Stone Road and the Taber Hill Road this season, or to leave one for the following summer.

We continued finishing up the ditching that we had started in the fall of 2019 on the Dunham Road on the middle section and we did more extensive ditching on the north end of the road. Then we prepared the rest of the roads to be paved by ditching and replacing culverts as needed. Due to waiting on a permit for culvert replacement on the Lombard Dam Road and the time restrictions, I asked the Board of Selectmen to pave the Bog Road instead of the Lombard Dam Road as it was in the plans to do in the summer of 2020, which they granted. We did do extensive ditching, brush and tree removal on the Bog Road to improve sight visibility on the corners. We also removed a good portion of ledge on one of the corners, allowing the plows and traffic to pass more safely.

In September, we did a major culvert replacement on the Cross Hill Road just north of the Quaker Lane intersection. This culvert was engineered to meet the Smart Streams crossing which substantially added to the cost of the project. Jim Foster volunteered his time in preparing a permit and securing a DEP grant that the Town was awarded in the amount of \$80,000.00. The culvert installed is precast concrete blocks with a concrete arch provided by Dirigo Timberlands. We rented various pieces of equipment to complete this job. My crew did an excellent job working on this project.

Road Commissioner

I want to greatly thank my crew and Jim for all the effort they put into this project. The total project cost for this job was \$131,352.00 not counting our materials we hauled from the Town pit and our truck's time. After the completion of this job we moved over to the Lombard Dam Road and replaced four cross culverts in preparation for paving the road in the summer of 2021.

Some of the additional work completed by the public works crew was putting out shoulder gravel on all the roads that were paved. The public works crew cleaned up all the leaves and debris from all the Cemeteries in town so they would be ready for the Cemetery Contractor to mow them. The road side mowing is done by contracting it

out to Aggressive Cuts which they do the first mowing in June. Aggressive Cuts has been doing a second mowing in September but they could not get here again until October and wanted to do only one pass so I canceled the second mowing this year. Due to mutual agreement we parted ways and plan on renting a mower and doing it in-house this coming summer.

In hopes to clear up some occasional confusion, the following roads are State roads: Route 3, Route 201, Route 32, Oak Grove Road, Stanley Hill Road, South Stanley Hill Road, Bog Road from Route 32 to the Webber Pond Road intersection and the Webber Pond Road. The MDOT are responsible for doing all the maintenance

work on these roads. We do plow and salt the following roads for the MDOT: Route 32, Oak Grove Road, Stanley Hill Road, South Stanley Hill Road, Webber Pond Road and the Bog Road from Route 32 to the Webber Pond Road intersection. I would like to thank Fire Chief Walker Thompson and his members for all the help they have given us during the wind storms we had this past year.

Lastly I would like to thank my crew of Shawn Bragg, Shane Cole and Brian Lajoie 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 publicworks@vassalboro.net

Town Assessor

Town Assessor

As always, it has been my pleasure to serve as the Assessor for the Town of Vassalboro. Looking back on the previous year, I am astounded by the explosion of the real estate market in Vassalboro and other Maine Towns where I assess properties. What we are seeing is the exact opposite of what I expected from the Covid-19 pandemic. Stock of properties available are down but the sale prices in the last year are leaving most assessments in my towns behind, Vassalboro is no exception. I certainly do not have any idea how long this will last or where it will settle. Time will tell.

As you may have noticed, I factored all values in Town up 11% for the 2020 tax year. This was to keep in compliance with the State of Maine certified ratio requirement so we could stay at 100 percent of value in their State valuation determination. This allowed me to continue granting full homestead and veteran exemptions to all qualified residents in the Town. New construction also appears

to still be on the uptick as well. The building permits seem to be holding steady and I assessed 8 new residential houses and 6 mobile homes for the 2020 tax year.

For the 2020 tax year the town had a total valuation of \$ 332,660,200 and I issued a total of 1,208 homestead exemptions. There were also 118 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



Town Assessor
Ellery G. Bane, C.M.A.
Assessor

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.

“Looking back: Va

When Maine separated from Massachusetts and became the 23rd state on March 15, 1820, Vassalborough was already 50 years old and thriving, even after its split from Sidney eight years earlier. A state evaluation the following year noted 457 polls (requiring an annual income of \$10 or an estate of \$200) and estates valued at more than \$200,000. Vassalborough was the second largest town in the county, following Hallowell.

With a population of 2,434 citizens, Vassalborough was home to the largest tannery in New England. With sheds covering more than an acre of land, it stood where the Old Mill stands today. The Southwick Mills was created when the Southwick Brothers, purchased a privilege from John Getchell and erected the tannery. Other accounts list Prince Hopkins as a partner in the tannery. Finished hides were hauled by wagon to the river at Riverside or Getchell’s Corner and floated down to Augusta via “long boats”. From there they were placed on ships and sent to Boston. From 1812 to 1839 over one

thousand shipments were made valued at nearly three million dollars.

Today it may be difficult to picture Vassalborough with “many mills”, stores, schools, taverns, stagecoach stops, farms, Post Offices and shipbuilding on the river, but in 1820 that is what our town looked like. Mail was delivered by boat up the Kennebec River until the road between Fort Western and Fort Halifax became passable. Vassalborough’s first Post Office was at Getchell’s Corner and in 1820 a second Post Office was added at Benjamin Brown, Jr.’s store in Riverside. In a list compiled by Raymond Manson, the town had three doctors. Taverns included two at Getchell’s Corner, one in North Vassalborough and one at the East.

Getchell’s Corner was home to a tannery owned by Jacob Southwick and Prince Hopkins, as well as an ashery and pail factory, and a plaster mill. Stephen Hanson was the town’s first blacksmith and John Getchell

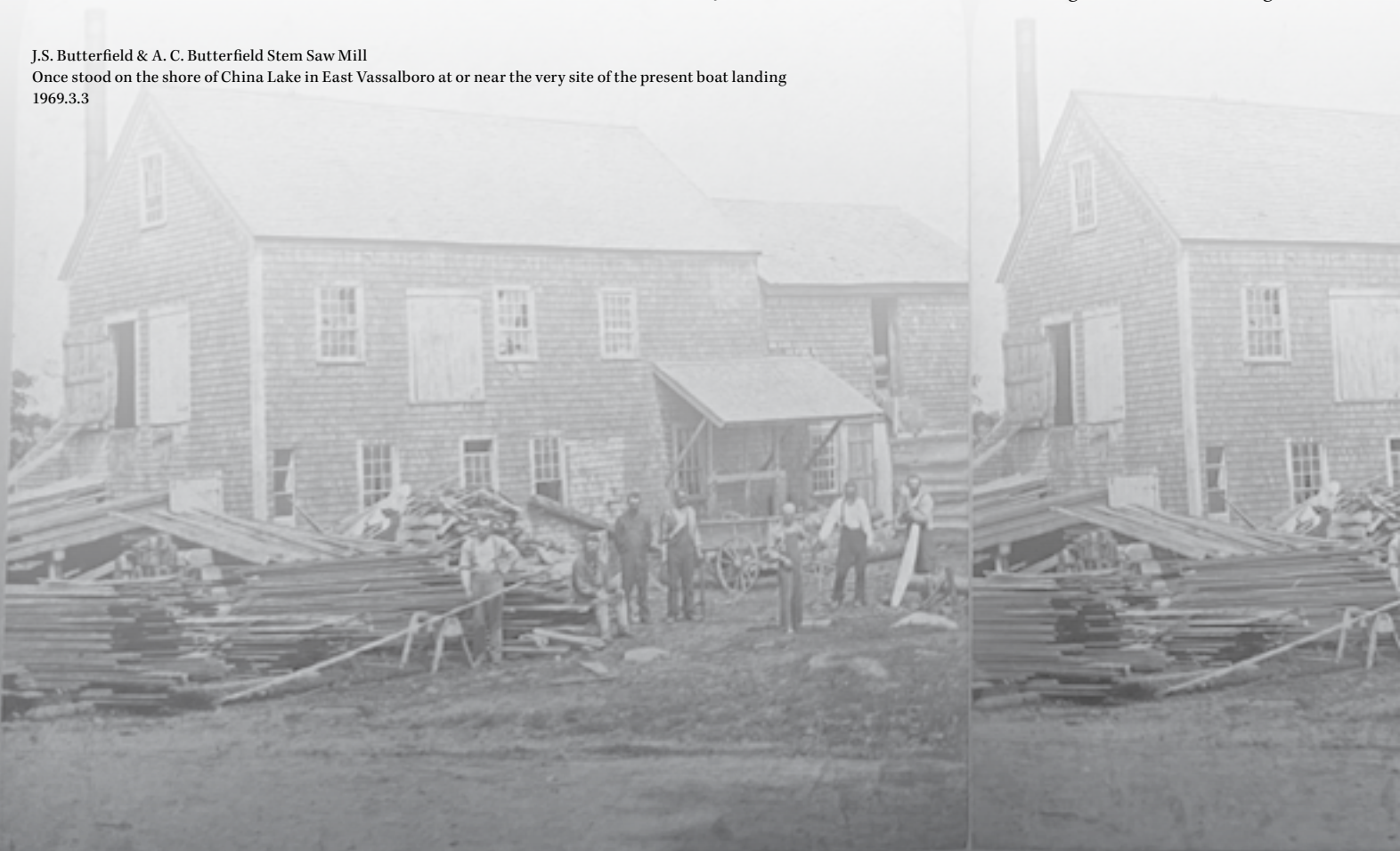
had the first sawmill. A second tannery was owned by Thomas Frye. Mr. Swan and Mr. Dennett were making hats and Oliver Brackett was making clocks.

North Vassalborough included the tannery, as well as grist mills and saw mills owned by John Getchell; Moses Sleeper produced satinette fabric; and Thomas A. M. Dinsmore made boots.

In East Vassalborough, Zachariah Butterfield had a grist mill and potash works, and in partnership with Peter Rollins, asheries. On Seven Mile Brook in Riverside, James T. Bowdoin operated the first grist mill north of Gardiner. Tradesmen and storekeepers included Nathan Breed, Webster & Colby, and William Getchell.

Churches or religious services were in all areas of town and included Baptist, Congregational, Methodist, and the Society of Friends. Worshippers had choices in East Vassalborough, North Vassalborough,

J.S. Butterfield & A. C. Butterfield Stem Saw Mill
Once stood on the shore of China Lake in East Vassalboro at or near the very site of the present boat landing
1969.3.3



Vassalboro in 1820

Looking back: Vassalboro in 1820

Riverside, Getchells's Corner, and Center Vassalborough.

According to the History of Vassalborough Maine 1771-1971 by Alma Pierce Robbins, "The citizens of Vassalborough have supported organizations in great variety since the Town Government was established in 1771." She went on to note that in 1820 the Vassalborough Agricultural Society was formed, which provided "premiums" to residents for wheat, corn, hemp, flax and silk. Prizes were given for cattle, sheep, and swine.

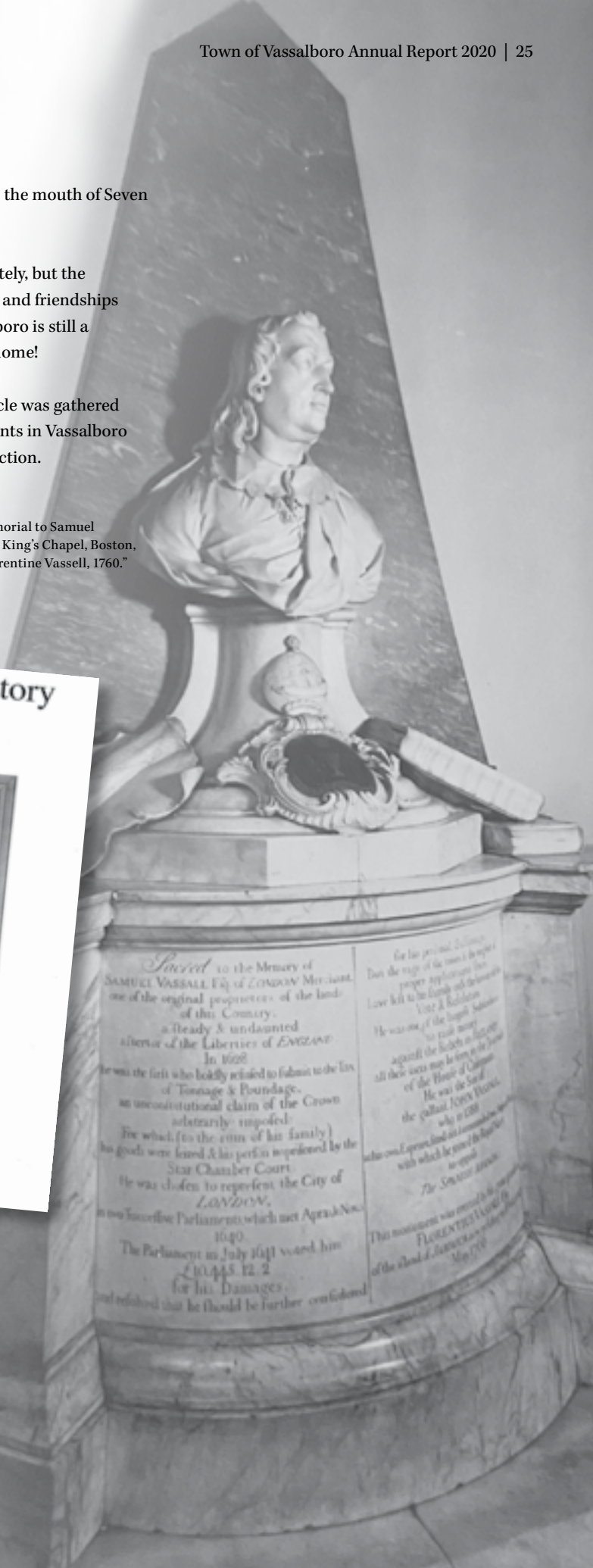
According to Robbins' History of Vassalborough, "In 1820 Reverend Thomas Adams was elected to the school committee, joining William Buckminster, Joseph R. Abbott, Philip Leach, and Moses Sleeper. There were eleven school districts in Vassalborough. Inhabitants of School District #19 in Riverside paid James Sturgis \$15 for a lot of land running from the

County Road (Rt. 201) to the mouth of Seven Mile Brook, 35' square."

Was there more? Absolutely, but the community cooperation and friendships abide to this day. Vassalboro is still a wonderful place to call home!

Information for this article was gathered from books and documents in Vassalboro Historical Society's collection.

The photo at right is "The Memorial to Samuel Vassall of London, England, in King's Chapel, Boston, Massachusetts, erected by Florentine Vassell, 1760."



Erskine Academy

Michael McQuarrie
Headmaster

As we approach one year with this pandemic, a disaster that changed everything, we are hopeful for the promise of a safer, healthier, and brighter 2021. The new year will be challenging, too, as COVID-19 continues its assault on so many lives. Still, our response to the circumstances and the lessons learned strengthen our resolve to emerge from this crisis a stronger and even better Erskine Academy.

This year like no other turned our world upside down and inside out. With insufficient notice to prepare, every aspect of our educational approach was affected, dramatically changing schooling as we know it. Although COVID-19 substantially violated our norms, our purpose, goals, and values remain intact. The expectations, pressures, and stressors of this time were met by retraining, retooling, reconfiguring our physical space, adhering vigilantly to health and safety measures, and investing in protective factors such as PPE, ventilation and air filtration systems, technology, and software. This is how we were able to return to school, and this is how we are now able to stay in school one good school day at a time.

Even in this altered school year, Erskine Academy's 138th, we continued to be your chosen high school that combines an independent education with the democratic ideal of a quality education for all. Our core values—Scholarship, Leadership, Stewardship, and Relationships—were at work to produce results and deliver the highest educational experience possible while mitigating coronavirus risks. We focused our efforts on improving our school, expanding opportunities for learning in and out of the classroom, and accelerating student achievement. A few facts about Erskine Academy today attest to our vitality and value:

- With 536 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 98% four-year graduation rate
- A dropout rate of less than one percent
- Of 147 graduates in 2020, 80% were accepted to higher or continuing education (now an eight-year trend), many to highly selective colleges and universities

Having no enrollment contracts with any community for a whole or portion of their high schoolers, we operate independently and exclusively on a school choice basis. Though independent, we commit to our publicly-funded students by admitting all students from our eight sending towns who have completed the eighth grade and can benefit from our programs. Over 60% of the students from our collective eight sending towns choose to attend Erskine Academy, a trend for many years.

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

We have always considered industry certificates, two-year degrees, apprenticeships, and military service as higher or continuing education and, as such, viable pursuits. Therefore, we have created and sustained a comprehensive academic program to reflect and facilitate access to these and four-year degree programs. We are also one of the few high schools in the state to continue to offer shop and industrial arts, family and consumer economics, and business courses for exposure and entry-level work.

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, 33% of our students receive academic assistance or special education services to support their learning.

As an eight-year MELMAC Education Foundation school, we 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. Our guidance program and counselors were again recognized by the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) for having 64% of graduating seniors complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is the highest completion rate among the region's largest high schools (those with 100 or more seniors).

Now in its tenth 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 64 students pursuing a certificate in a craft or trade at the Capital Area Technical Center, our enrollment is second only to its host, Cony High School.

Last year, 113 students enrolled in one or more of our available 23 Advanced Placement courses; 315 students took at least one (the majority take an average of two) of our 19 dual enrollment courses with nearby colleges, including Kennebec Valley Community College, Thomas College, the University of Maine, the University of Maine at Farmington, Eastern Maine Community College, the University of Maine at Augusta, and Husson University taught here by our teachers. For their efforts in these early college experiences, nearly one-half of our graduates earned college credits while in high school; 303 of the 315 classes taken received college credit, collectively saving an estimated \$279,972 in college tuition at the University of Maine rate.

Through our International Student Program and American Field Service (AFS) club, our students develop understanding and interpersonal skills for living more globally and interdependently in a culturally diverse world. For a ninth time, AFS students made a humanitarian trip to Costa Rica to build homes for impoverished families. Eye-opening experiences such as these fire the heart and mind and inspire our students to look beyond EA and the familiar to a world that truly needs them.

With 27% of our students receiving free and reduced breakfast and lunch, our student body is socioeconomically diverse. As is the case for many Maine schools, our most vulnerable students live and learn in poverty. Inspired by twice winning WGME 13/Fox 23's School Spirit Challenge and raising a record-breaking 281,696 pounds of food for the Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine and our local food pantries, we established a school-based food, clothing, and supplies cupboard. Supported by fundraisers and donations, we continue to operate the "Eagles Nest," an open-access food pantry and backpack program from which students can obtain food after school and for weekends. Finally, this year we qualified for the state's Extended Summer Feeding Program, ensuring students' access to tray breakfasts and lunches at no cost to them through June 2021.

Other examples of our school community's goodwill include our twelfth community Cancer Walk that yielded \$6,700 for Maine General Medical Center's Alford Center, bringing our historical contributions to over \$50,000; we contributed thousands of hours to community service and raised substantial funds for important causes such as the Home for Little Wanderers, the Ronald McDonald House, the Center for Grieving Children, and the United Way's Day of Caring. Through volunteerism and stewardship, we engage meaningfully with our communities and experience giving back with appreciation and humility.

School safety is of utmost priority. Last year we conducted a second round of schoolwide

training in ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuation), an enhanced safety program of age and ability appropriate, options-based strategies to use in the event of a violent intrusion on the school. Staff and student training included eLearning and advisory sessions, physical exercises, and the conducting of active-shooter drills facilitated by administrators in cooperation with officers from the Maine State Police and the Kennebec County Sheriff's Department. As a result of this training, students report feeling more confident and better equipped to respond to a significant, violent assault on themselves or their school. Subsequently, we are one of ten Maine schools, and the only school in Kennebec County, to be an ALICE Certified Organization.

Since our founding in 1883, Erskine Academy has remained true to its mission while evolving to meet new demands, challenges, and uncertainties. Pursuing excellence and implementing our mission are continuous works in progress, as was affirmed by our accrediting agency, The New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. (NEASC), who, in response to our five-year report states, "...the Commission wishes to note the level of attention which the school gives its students. You have developed a truly extensive and effective program—one that is singularly focused on students maximizing their experience and on the post-secondary experiences available to them."

This traumatic year reminds us that relationships are the glue to keep us together. We have heartfelt gratitude for our alumni and friends who believe strongly enough in our values and results to give their time, talents, and financial donations. Their support enables us to invest in programs and enhancements that state-set tuition alone cannot and raises the expectations we have for ourselves.

We are grateful to our students, families, and sending communities for their confidence in and support for Erskine

Academy. Together, we create a school and heritage that adheres to what we know is right and good for our young people and aids them in establishing a strong start for adulthood.

To our students and families, while teaching and learning will continue to be different for the foreseeable future, be assured that the faculty and staff recognize the losses to your school life from the effects of COVID-19. In that recognition, we find our responsibility to provide you with nearly the Erskine experience enjoyed by generations of students before you. We all wish this thing were done, and it will be. In the meantime, take comfort in the spirit and dedication of our teachers and staff, the frontline workers in your education, who are taking care of our school, students, families, and each other.

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

Onward Erskine!



Erskine Academy Campus

Conservation Commission

Holly Weidner
Chair

The Vassalboro Conservation Commission works to preserve, protect and best utilize the town's natural resources and rural character. This year was a year of transition. The Commission had created a Trail subcommittee in 2007 that was in 2020 to be under the supervision of the Select Board. The Commission continues to enjoy collaborating with the Trail Committee to promote access to our public land. In February, our chair, Laura Jones stepped down as she became more active in her new work. We greatly appreciated her energy and enthusiasm in leading the commission for the past year. Then the pandemic arose in March and with it, uncertainties on how to proceed.

By the fall, it became clear that we wanted to focus on conservation and protection of our natural resources and increased utilization of town lands and parks. We wanted to better advise town officials concerning the effects of present or future projects on our resources as well as encourage planning for the protection of our resources.

We started with 3 areas: Improving recycling and other waste management, addressing the cost of climate change on our town and continuing to monitor the quality of our water resources both in our lakes and our ground water.

Conservation Commission

Conservation Commission

Over the past 4 years the town has seen many changes to its waste management related to the closure of the PERC site, the delayed start -up to the new Fiberight facility and then its shut down. Across the state there has been a general decrease in overall recycling. In our own town, with much of our waste being transported to a landfill and increasing costs of hauling it, concern arose for how to promote recycling and composting. With as much as 30% of hauled wastes coming from compostable materials, we learned what other towns were doing to increase the opportunity for composting. We are aware of other programs being proposed at the state level to reduce wastes. We will be working with the Select Board and transfer station to continue to assess the best way to reduce costs and increase recycling.

After reviewing what might be the most economical and rapid way to reduce carbon emissions, the Conservation Commission recommended that the Select Board direct our federal representatives to pass legislation that would endorse a nationwide carbon fee and dividend program. This program would both put a "pollution fee" at the source of the carbon and distribute the fees directly to all residents without passing through the government. This is still in process of educating ourselves and community.

We continue to work in conjunction with the Alewife Restoration Initiative as they start their last fish ladder on the China Lake dam. We look forward to working more closely with the China Region Lakes Alliance

in continuing to improve water quality of our Lakes. They continue to supply us with courtesy boat checks to prevent invasive milfoil from entering the lake as well as Lake Smart advice and labor for improving lake water quality.

The Commission continued with its beautifying of the Memorial Park on China Lake: final plantings and the stone walkway around the base of the monument were completed. Thanks to Fieldstone Gardens for all their planning, labor and creative energy.

In preparation for the replacement of a culvert on Cross Hill Road, a survey was performed 2 weeks prior, and it was confirmed that a spring fed pond at that location contained native trout. To facilitate the construction, the fish were relocated during the construction. Unfortunately, the requirement to reestablish the spring fed pond was omitted during the permit application process. Since construction completion, a new permit has been applied for which will restore the spring fed pond so that it can continue to support the native trout habitat.

We look forward to a year of discovering how best to protect our beautiful resources in Vassalboro and welcome associate members to our public meetings.

Sheriff's Office

Sheriff's Office

Sheriff's Office

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 2020. These services include the Law Enforcement Division, Corrections' Services, Civil Process, Court and Transport Division. We provided many regional assets to our communities including, Two K-9 Teams, Dive Team, Sex Offender Registry, Veterans Advocacy, Accident Reconstruction and Drug Recognition Experts(DRE).

I would like to begin by saying that 2020 was certainly a challenging and unusual year for all of us. COVID -19 changed all of our lifestyles and daily activities. It did not, however, change the fact that your Sheriff's Office continued to respond to calls for service as well as caring for the inmates incarcerated at our facility. In other words, it was business as usual for my staff. We just went about it a little differently.

In 2020, Law Enforcement Deputies in full-time and part-time capacity logged thousands of calls for service. There was a brief time of about three months from the middle of March to about the middle of June when calls for service were actually down, likely due to the COVID-19 outbreak. It was a welcome relief, as the threat of the viral infection was yet another caution our Deputies added to their daily routine.

Thanks to the Stanton Foundation, Kennebec received a \$25,000.00 grant to purchase another K-9. That grant paid for the dog (Brock) and all associated equipment training for Brocks handler, Deputy Zack Carey. Since the beginning of the year, four new full-time patrol deputies have joined our ranks due to resignations or expansion of the division. Due to the State Police reducing their commitment to our call-sharing agreement, the Sheriff's Office has increased its patrol staff by three members.

The patrol division welcomes Phil Lynch, Brandon Van Wyk, Jordan Gaudet and

Nathan Johnson. Deputy Lynch was a part time reserve deputy already working with us. Deputy Van Wyk came to us from the correctional division and Jordan Gaudet and Nathan Johnson were already certified full time officers and came to us from Hallowell PD. We will be bringing on two new deputies in January of 2021 to fill our roster.

Our Civil Process Deputies serve legal documents on behalf of attorneys, the courts, citizens, local, and state government, landlords and other entities. In 2020, the three civil deputies received over 6,876 requests for service in Kennebec County. Some of the services include, civil summons & complaints, foreclosures, evictions, small claims, child support notices from the State and enforcement of court orders and writs to name a few.

During the past year, our Correctional Facility managed 1920 inmate intakes. The offenses committed by defendants included everything from Trespass to Homicide. Substance abuse and the proper treatment of citizens with mental illness continue to be two primary concerns at the Correctional Facility.

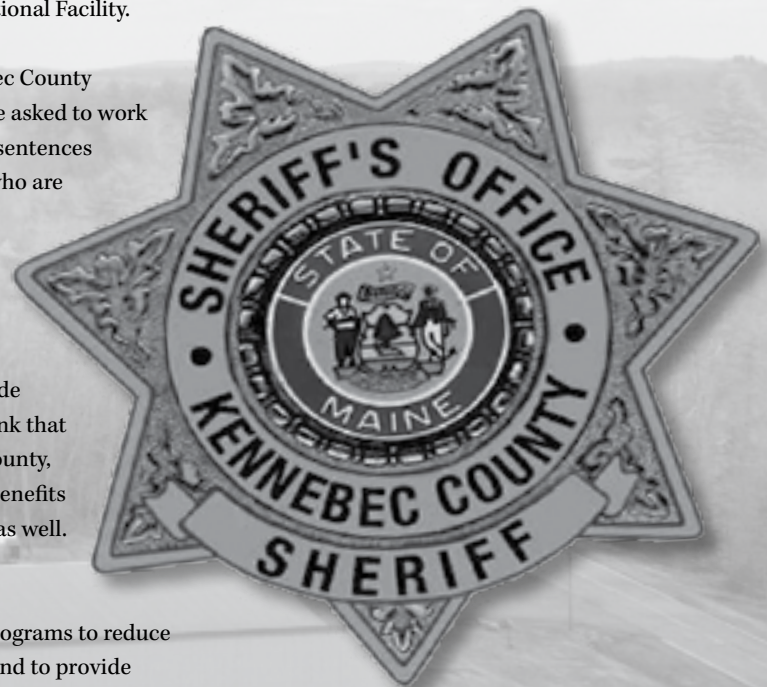
Inmates at the Kennebec County Correctional Facility are asked to work and earn time off their sentences if applicable. Inmates who are considered to be a risk to the community work inside the facility cleaning and cooking, while others are supervised on outside projects. One might think that this only benefits the county, but it does not. It also benefits the inmate population as well.

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.

I would like to thank all of my administrative staff who support the patrol division, detective division, correctional division and the civil deputies. The copious amounts of paperwork that is handled by these individuals is staggering and their work is greatly appreciated. Job well done by all.

As your Sheriff, and moving forward into 2021, my focus will remain steadfast in serving the people of Kennebec County and our visitors.



Transfer Station

Transfer Station



Transfer Station
George Hamar
 Transfer Station Manager

It's our pleasure serving those who utilize our wonderful transfer station and recycling facility here in Vassalboro. I am grateful for the opportunity to share what's been going on at the facility in 2020. 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. This past year with the closure of the Fiberright trash processing facility owned by Coastal Resources of Maine, all Vassalboro's household trash has temporarily been diverted to the Crossroads landfill in Norridgewock. To learn more about the Coastal Resources of Maine and the future of its operations please visit the www.mrcmaine.org website to get the most updated information.

In February there was more discussion on making improvements to the transfer layout. The Selectmen accepted a proposal from Engineer A.E. Hodsdon of Waterville for \$13,300 for design work.

In April with the governor's order to shut down because of the COVID-19 pandemic we temporarily reduced the days of operation at the transfer station. The facility was only open on Saturdays and with the help from the public works crew rotating between each other as well as setting up user lanes and directing traffic, we were able to operate safely and efficiently.

In July after interviewing several applicants for the vacant transfer station attendant

position we welcomed aboard local resident Adam Daoust to join the awesome team of employees that work for the Town of Vassalboro.

In August Al Hodsdon presented transfer station draft plans to the Board of Selectmen for review. The draft included the addition of a new trash compactor, a new shed roof over the open top container, and a new control building for the compactor. Also, an interest to acquire a small section of land abutting the transfer station to create a new safer exit. There were questions about the new proposed traffic flow and recommendations were to meet with the engineer and report back to Selectmen in September. That meeting got postponed until October.

In August, the Roto-phase that powers the trash compactor shorted out and was out of operation for almost two months. After numerous repairs by Skowhegan Electric and service calls from local electrician Frank Axtell, we were back and up running. In October, Al Hodsdon presented a revised layout and traffic pattern at the Transfer Station and also said he had spoken with the abutting landowner that expressed a willingness to work with the Town to either sell a portion of his land or to provide an easement for the proposed exit. After discussion, Mr. Hodsdon agreed more planning and research is needed.

In 2020 Vassalboro Residents disposed of 1534 tons of MSW and 486 tons of Bulky waste items at the transfer station

Recycled in 2020

Corrugated Cardboard	80 tons
Misc. Electronics	8 tons
Metals	162.6 tons
Clothing	7.9 tons
Tires	1,057 total
Waste Oil & Antifreeze	1460 gallons
Compost	50 tons
Reusable items (swap shed)	6 tons
Fluorescent bulbs	1590 total

I would like to thank everyone for their dedicated efforts separating and recycling corrugated cardboard and being open to new technological advancements to process and sort other recyclable materials from the trash. Also, our Vassalboro public works and town office staff for all their services they provide.

I look forward continuing to serve the residents of Vassalboro. We are open for discussion with any of those who seek a sensible, balanced and sustainable solution to increase recycling and reduce the waste that tax dollars are paying to dispose of. 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 our current transfer station fee schedule 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 Adam or myself if you have any other questions.



Photos by Mary Sabins



L to R: Adam Daoust and George Hamar

Fire Department

Fire Department

2020 was a challenging year for most, and the busiest we've ever been. Last year, the Vassalboro Fire Department responded to a total of 174 emergency calls, a record number for the department. I am very proud to say that the fire department has approximately 30 members. The members of VFD are dedicated men and women who strive to provide the Town of Vassalboro with quality, professional services. We were faced with a variety of calls such as, structure fires, chimney fires, motor vehicle crashes, fire alarm/carbon monoxide activations, mutual aid responses, etc.

Last year, Vassalboro Fire Department received a number of donations and grants. One of them being our repeater system that is used for communication to our dispatch center (Augusta Regional Communications Center) failed and needed to be replaced, as it was approximately 20 years old. VFD Vice President Mike Vashon and myself went out to gather quotes from local dealers to get the repeater replaced. Realizing the great expense this would be to the VFD, Mike Vashon was able to obtain an anonymous donation of \$20,000 towards the replacement cost of our repeater system, so that the town would not have to come up with the funds to replace the repeater. Thank you, Mike! Another large donation to the VFD came from Central Maine Power Co. They made a generous donation of just over \$6,000 to purchase a new washer extractor for our fire gear, as the washer that was donated to VFD 10 years ago is no longer operable.

On behalf of the Vassalboro Fire Department, we would like to thank YOU, the towns people, the Town Officials, the Public Works Dept., the Vassalboro First Responders, the Vassalboro Police Chief, and all of our mutual aid departments that continue to provide their service to our town when they are called upon. We would like to also recognize and thank all the other agencies, Augusta RCC, Maine State Fire Marshall's Office, Maine State Police, Maine Warden Service, Kennebec County Sheriff's Office, Life Flight of Maine, Maine DEP, Maine DOT, Central

Maine Power, Delta Ambulance, and Local Wrecker businesses for their assistance when we needed them.

Once again, I would like to remind everyone to please place 4" reflective numbers on both sides of your mailbox, and on your house where it is visible from the road to help emergency personnel find you in the event of an emergency. Please make sure you have working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your house, and change the batteries regularly. Also, make sure all exits are accessible and free of obstructions (including snow), come up with a family emergency escape plan with a meeting place. Make sure to keep combustible items away from heat sources, and make sure to have your heating sources as well as your chimney cleaned every year.

Last, but not least, I personally would like to thank ALL the members of VFD for their hard work, dedication and countless hours to our community. They are the definition of true professionals. These men and women are faced with some of the most challenging, difficult calls throughout the year and do a great job at what they do. No matter what time of day or night, these folks will be there to provide quality service to the town. Most of the members, all have full time jobs and yet, still find the time to attend meetings, trainings, calls etc. I can't thank them all enough for everything they do.

We would like to remind you that you can obtain a fire permit for FREE at www.wardensreport.com. If you have any questions or concerns, please see our contact info below. As always, in the event of an emergency, please call 911.



Fire Department
Walker Thompson
Fire Chief



VFD Firefighters fight a car fire on Lombard Dam Rd in Vassalboro July 28th at 22:30 Hrs.



L to R: Walker Thompson, Eric Rowe and Bob Williams



Library

Library

Brian Stanley
Library Director



At the library, we know this year has been very challenging for everyone, businesses and individuals alike, affecting so much of our daily lives. It has dramatically changed the way our Library serves the community, although our mission stays the same: to be a consistent information and education source for the community of Vassalboro. Despite challenges of the past year, we have launched a STEM kit lending library for students of all ages (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). This was through the generous support of a Maine Public Library Fund Grant. These kits cover aspects of circuitry, engineering, robotics and coding in fun, creative, and immersive ways. These kits can help students learn basic code for video games and robots, and learn basic engineering and circuitry skills that could serve them throughout their lives. We look forward to a time when we can again invite students to the library for programs and market and share this great resource for many years to come. In the meantime, we are happy to work with each family to find a kit you can check out that would best suit your interests. Alexis, our assistant librarian, has also consistently been putting together Take and Make kits for students. These have also been very popular and we hope to continue both of these services in the coming years.

When we closed for three months, from March until early June, Alexis and I took the time to reorganize the library, weed some books that have not circulated in over ten years, and opened up a back room for an ongoing book-sale. During this time, we also successfully applied for a number of grants that helped us through the pandemic. Since June 2020, the library has opened our regular hours. We are proud of the number of people who have visited our library during this challenging time. We do believe remaining open, yet vigilant to State guidelines, had a positive impact on the community. Many parents have come for books to supplement at-home learning, STEM and Take and Make kits were checked out, and countless hours were spent reading a borrowed book by adults and children alike. We have also joined the Cloud

Library so our patrons now have access to e-books and e-audio through the Maine State Library, and did host one socially distanced program in late summer: our Chalk-Fest.

Looking at the numbers for the fiscal year, we had nearly 5000 checkouts with 3700 renewals. We also had about 4,800 library visits. These numbers (as well as other library service statistics) are either moderately greater or about the same as the previous year. However, the library closed for three months due to covid, so it is hard to compare. With those three months, our numbers would have been greater than the previous year. The numbers do prove (at least to me) the positive impact and need of library services in Vassalboro, as well as educational programs when we can again implement them safely and within the guidelines of the State.

We appreciate and thank all our steady supporters and always have our doors open to new patrons, questions, and information needs.

A very special thank you to the Vassalboro Library Association. A very special thank you to all the supporters toward our Annual Appeal. Thank you for making this our most successful year ever! A very special thank you to Irene Forster, Teri Wadding, Anna Granquist, Susan Kiralis, Lore Ferguson, Vickie Limberger, Helen LaFleur, Jody & Bernie Welch, Victor Esposito and the JMG students, the Vassalboro Business Association, Laura Jones at Fieldstone Gardens, Mary Sabins at the Town Office, Donna Martin at Maine Savings, and Linda and Lauchlin Titus.

The very best to all of you in Vassalboro in the coming year.

Photos on this page contributed by Brian Stanley

Superintendant

Superintendant

Superintendant

Alan Pfeiffer

Vassalboro Community School

A recurring theme in reviewing the 2020-2021 school year is change — much of it unanticipated and unwanted. However, there were some changes at Vassalboro Community School this year that brought significant benefits.

Vassalboro Community School (VCS), like many schools in Maine, receives federal funding to provide additional student learning supports. For many years, that support was limited to literacy support for our youngest students. This year the program has been restructured and we have two new specialists -- one for literacy and one for math -- who can support both students and staff in their respective areas. Jenna Zemrak is the building's literacy specialist, coming to us from RSU 18. Erica Millett is our new math specialist, formerly a math coach in the Manchester school district. We are very excited to have these knowledgeable and enthusiastic professionals join our staff -- and see the potential for great benefits from this program change.

In addition to the typical federal funding that Vassalboro Community School receives annually, supplemental Covid-related funding was provided to VCS. The first two rounds of funding this fall were directed by Governor Mills to be used by the schools to meet urgent

needs associated with getting schools up and running during this pandemic. Other funding intended to provide continuing support over the next two years for ongoing needs, such as student learning supports, caused by the disruption due to the Covid-19 Pandemic was also allocated. These monies came with specific guidelines, "not to be used for previously budgeted items or to replace potential lost revenue." School plans had to be approved by the Maine Department of Education. VCS has used the funding in a variety of ways. Following are examples of the breadth and depth these benefits have made possible: to ensure that all students have the technology needed for hybrid or remote learning; to increase sanitation and ventilation; to hire substitutes in response to staff absences due to quarantine requirements; to support additional hours for kitchen staff in order to provide additional meal delivery requirements; to purchase additional supplies to eliminate student sharing of materials, and to purchase school buses.

Another effort was collaboration with municipal officials in exploring and bringing to fruition a Solar power source which will stabilize and benefit the community, now and into the future.



A special thank you again to the Vassalboro School Board Members Chairman Kevin Levasseur, Jolene Gamage, Libby Loiko, Jessica Clark and Zachary Smith for their ongoing work and support to ensure a safe learning environment and quality education is in place for "All" students, staff and community members. And a thank you once again for the continued collaboration and support with Town officials and community members on many fronts.

In closing, I am honored to serve and continue work with so many dedicated individuals at the Vassalboro Community School and in the community. We will continue to put forth our best efforts on all fronts to provide a strong education for all students in the Vassalboro School Community.



Photos contributed by Vassalboro Community School



Code Enforcement

Paul Mitnik
 CEO/LPI/BI/
 911-Addressing Officer

The year 2020 was different from any in our lives due to the Covid-19 pandemic that we all now have to deal with but the world of Code Enforcement has been plugging along. After relatively slow start in permit activity in the spring, permit activity appeared to soar in June and July and again in early autumn.

A total of 80 building permits valued at approximately \$6.1 million were issued in 2020 compared to 53 permits in 2019 valued at \$3 million.

A total of 82 plumbing permits were issued in 2020 compared to 56 in 2019.

A total of 32 Shoreland Zoning permits were issued in 2020.

It can be deduced that building in general has been soaring after a slight slowdown in the spring of 2020 and comparatively was 50% higher than that of 2019.

In general, my style is to give folks time to comply with state a local standards which I enforce. Frequently people do not know they are violating a code or law, and have to be told that they are. If you aren't sure about something, check with me first. I will do my best to keep you out of trouble. If you are in the shoreland zone which is generally within 250 feet of a stream, lake, river or wetland, regulation is a lot stricter to protect the water resource. If you are doing any clearing or cutting of trees here be sure to check with me prior to doing the clearing. Make sure

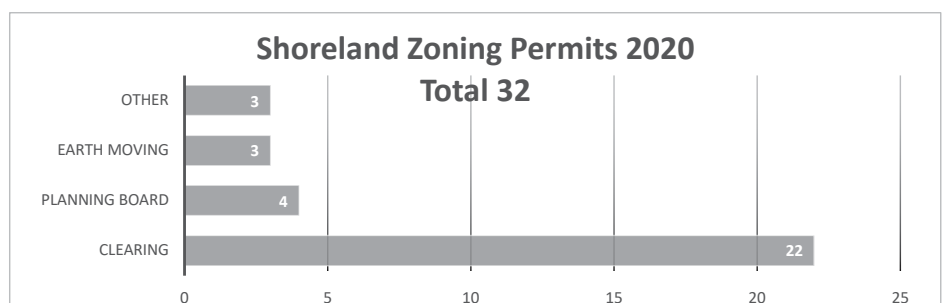
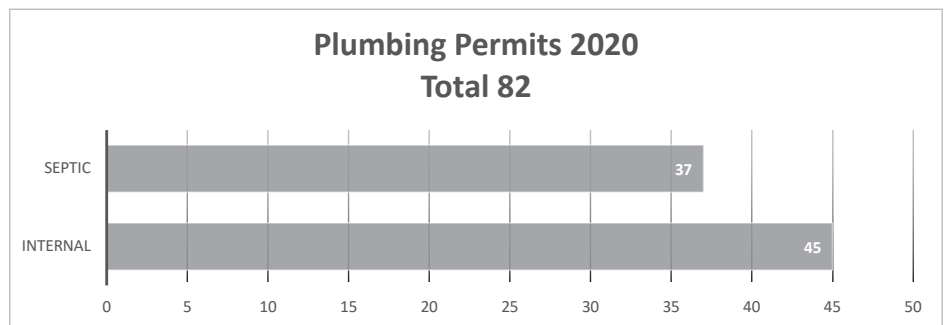
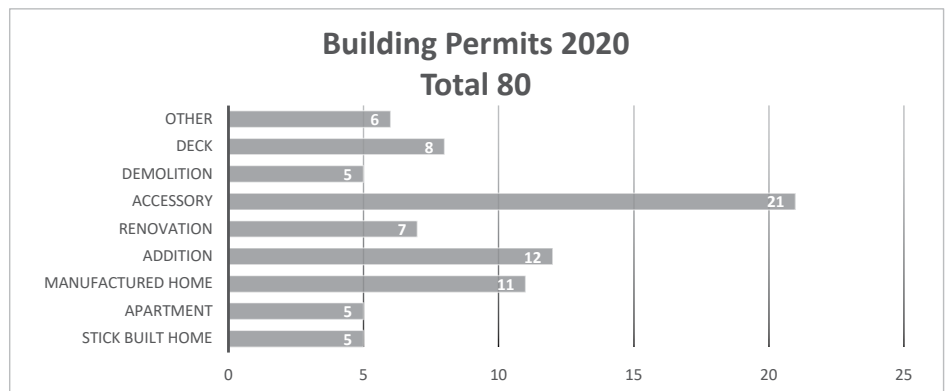
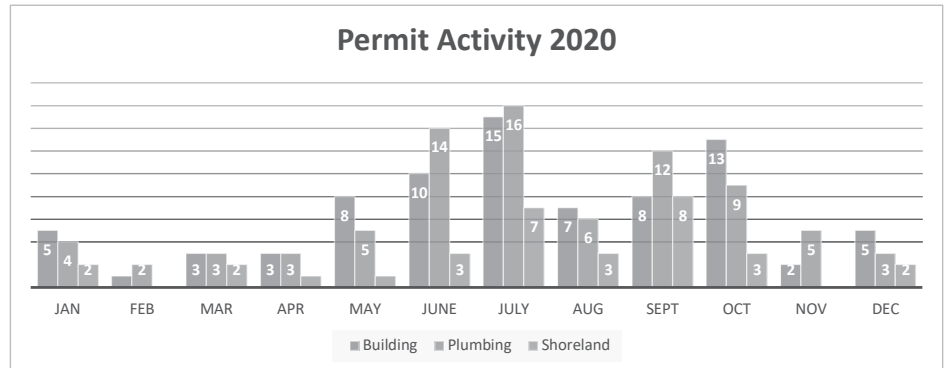
Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement

you have all of your permits before starting any work including excavation. Have your silt fence or berm of erosion control mix installed prior to moving excavation.

for a building permit, I will also have you fill out paperwork that tells me how your improvement will be constructed. This is the plan review required by the code and my paperwork will relieve you of the expensive obligation to submit plans prepared by an architect or structural engineer. The paperwork becomes our building agreement.

Vassalboro is enforcing a statewide building code referred to as the Maine Building and Energy Code (MUBEC). When you apply



As long as you follow this agreement, the inspections that I will do in various stages of construction should go smoothly for both of us.

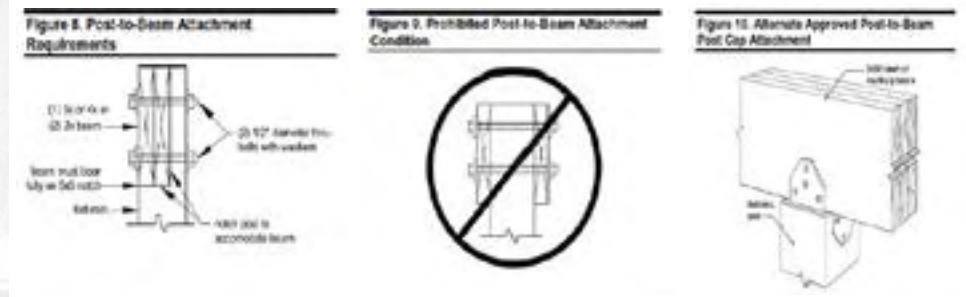
Some of the common issues that I run into are the use of headers over a garage door installed on the eave side that are undersized; use of a 2 x 4 wall for internal plumbing; attachment of a deck beam that is supporting the joists of a deck to the side of the posts, installment of the posts that are supporting a beam too far apart; and use of an undersized ridge beam on a cathedral ceiling.

Engineered lumber such as LVL's may be required on wider garages in which the door width is eight or more feet. Engineered lumber is manufactured lumber which is nearly perfect and has no defects such as knots which weaken the strength of lumber. Any plumbing installed with an internal wall should be framed with 2x6's.



Photo by Paul Mitnik

A 2 x4 wall used for plumbing vent pipes illustrating holes too large to meet code on a non-bearing wall. Hole should not exceed 60% of stud width.



The above figures illustrate that the beam should be on top of the posts supporting a deck or floor to properly transform the load to the post footing. In figure #9 the bolts are bearing the entire load and could eventually shear. A good rule of thumb for the posts supporting a deck beam or the floor beam in a home is that they should not be more than eight feet apart. Depending on the span of the joists that they are supporting (i.e. building width) lower spacing of the post could be necessary. A metal I beam or engineered lumber such as LVL's can support wider post spacing. The use of floor trusses or TJI engineered lumber (manufactured wood I beams) can eliminate the need for floor beams in home flooring and posts in a cellar.

It is important to recognize that cathedral ceilings are mainly supported by the ridge beam and usually require engineered lumber such as multiple LVL's that are posted down to the wall bottom plate. Conventional rafter framing requires ceiling joists on every member and collar ties installed on the upper third at four feet intervals which act as a system supporting the roof. A large ridge board is not necessary in conventional rafter framing. The use of a one inch thick board is sufficient as long as it is at least as wide as the cut in the rafter.

I am generally available to help you with any applications or paperwork that you need help with. If you are doing any construction in the shoreland zone, it may need Planning Board review. New or expanded businesses may also need Planning Board review as do subdivisions of land. I am the person

to get you on the Board's Agenda and help you fill out paperwork. I work on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM and Fridays from 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM.

Lastly I regretfully must mention that I am planning to leave this position and finally retire (my third retirement) in April of this year. I will miss all of the mostly friendly people that I have met, but even Tom Brady will eventually retire from football.

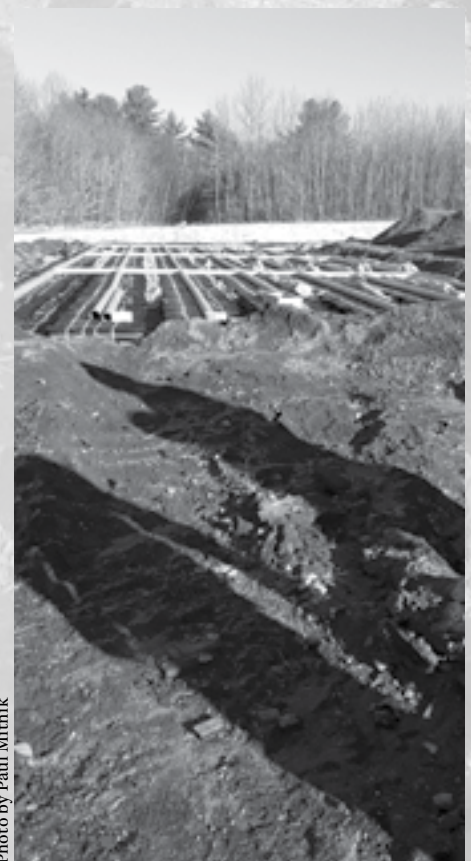


Photo by Paul Mitnik

Septic 27 x 76 wastewater disposal bed of Sidereal Farm Brewery on Cross Hill Rd consisting of 133 Eljen geotextile sand filter units inspected on January 8, 2021.

Alewife Restoration Initiative

Matt Streeter

ARI Project Manager

In 2020, after years of work and planning, a technical fishway was built at the Box Mill dam site, next to the Olde Mill Place on Main Street. We think it looks gorgeous and we hope you'll visit! The Box Mill site is the first barrier that in-migrating alewives face on their way to spawn in China Lake. This is the second technical fishway installed on the stream, in 2019 work focused on the upstream Ladd dam site. Two dams have been removed (Lombard and Masse), while plans are underway to install one last technical fishway at the China Lake Outlet dam, owned by the Town of Vassalboro, and remove the remnants of the Morneau dam.

For years now, each spring thousands of adult alewives would make their way to the base of the Box Mill dam, having made a long journey up from the ocean, but were unable to make it any further. Now, for the first time in more than 200 years, migratory fish will make it past the Box Mill dam. Fish won't be able to make it all the way to China Lake until work is completed at the Outlet dam, although some will spawn in upstream at the Ladd impoundment.

The overall goal of this project is to provide free passage into China Lake for up to 950,000 returning adult alewives. Their offspring, young alewives, will then safely swim downstream and make their way out to the ocean until time for them to make the trip back to freshwater to reproduce. When the run is approved as sustainable, a harvest can take place to benefit the Town.

The Box Mill fishway was technically complex and expensive to install. Dam removal is nearly always a cheaper solution but at this location the entire stream likely was entirely moved sometime during its past to flow closer to the mill. Plans needed to include consideration of water flows, the bridge just upstream, existing ledge and stonework in

Alewife Restoration Initiative

Box Mill Fishway Success

the stream, historic stonework along the streambanks, safety during construction and public access after construction. We are pleased to report that we created a site that will work for the hundreds of thousands of alewives that will use the fishway, as well as for community members who come to this site for high school senior portraits and wedding pictures.

The Alewife Restoration Initiative has been underway for more than five years, bringing many organizations and individuals together toward one goal—the restoration of a run of nearly one million alewives. Along the way we've restored wetlands, removed invasive plants from the stream banks, replanted native flowers, trees and shrubs, educated

many classes of middle schoolers. We greatly appreciate the support we've received from the Town of Vassalboro.

Support for the project has come from the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Town of Vassalboro TIF fund, Town of China, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program, Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, Maine Department of Marine Resources, China Lake Association and its members, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Community Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Anonymous Foundation, and other generous individuals. For more information: www.mainerivers.org contact@mainerivers.org



Box Mill photos contributed by Matt Streeter

Trails Committee

Trails Committee

Trails Committee
John Melrose
Chair

In 2019 the Select Board reestablished the Vassalboro Trails Committee to achieve better coordination among trail interests in Town, publicize Vassalboro trails more, and improve trail maintenance with community involvement. The Select Board addressed coordination by selecting members who represent different trail interests in Town. The membership includes two Stewards for the Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) who oversee two of the three KLT trails in Town, a member of the Vassalboro Snowmobile Club who serves as liaison to that group, and other members focused on trails at the Annie Sturgis Sanctuary, the Town Forest and the Alonzo Garcelon Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

One of the first accomplishments of the Committee was to revamp the trails information on the Town's website to provide a more comprehensive, up to date overview of all of the trails in Town. The link to the trails section of the website now provides additional trail descriptions, new maps and photos. It also includes links to other sites where more information is available. On the ground, trail markers on several trails

were refreshed to improve way finding for trail users.

Committee members worked to clear trails at two KLT properties, Seaward Mills and Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat and also worked on trails at the Alonzo Garcelon WMA. The Native Plant Trust, owner of the Annie Sturgis Sanctuary, made major improvements to their trails over the past year. The Vassalboro Snowmobile Club made great progress reopening trails, creating alternate trails and repairing many bridges.

The Committee worked the most on the Vassalboro Town Forest trails located north of the recreational fields in East Vassalboro. Cliff Pooler, Bruce Lancaster and Michael Poulin joined this effort with chain saws and tractor. Blow downs obstructing the trails were removed and rotted bog bridging was replaced. The community was made aware of the work that needed to be done and last fall, two dozen volunteers from all over town assisted in placing bark mulch throughout the trails that are now in the best shape ever. The Trails Committee and the Snowmobile Club opened up the west end of the Town

Forest Trail to provide a better way for snowmobilers to traverse the recreational fields on the way to China Lake. This initiative included adding a 750 foot section that now connects the Town Forest Trail to Bog Road east of the Public Works garage. This new section needs more work but enough was done before snowfall to accommodate snowmobilers this year.

Committee members serve one year terms and there is no limit on the Committee size at this time. Meetings are infrequent especially due to COVID. We would rather be out in the air anyway working on the trails. Committee members include Richard Behr, Meridith Cain, Maverick Lowery, John Melrose, Paul Mitnik, Paul Oxley and Holly Weidner. Anyone interested in serving on the Committee or just volunteering time should let any member of our Committee know or contact Town Manager Mary Sabins.

Sanitary District

Sanitary District

Sanitary District
Ray Breton
Chair

Construction was stopped in 2019 due to the winter months, started again in the Spring of 2020, and completed by early Fall. The old pump stations at East Vassalboro, China Lake, Stanley Hill Road, Willow Street, and Oak Grove Road were demolished and new pump stations were installed. The three sewer beds at Cemetery Street, North Main Street, and East Vassalboro were dismantled and landscaped. All flows are now being sent to the Town of Winslow to be received by the Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District.

Should power outages occur, North Main Street, South Main Street, and East Vassalboro pump stations have permanent generators. A portable generator with trailer was purchased for the three small pump stations at China Lake, Stanley Hill Road, and Oak Grove Road.

The board members – Ray Breton, Al Roy, Lee Trahan, and Becky Goodrich would like to thank all residents and non-residents for your patience and understanding during the

construction, as well as everyone who was involved with this project.

Municipal Expenditures

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

ADMINISTRATION

Appropriation:	\$463,134.00	
Expenditures:	Personnel service	\$358,846.17
	Insurance	8,405.22
	Utilities	6,787.51
	Building/Grounds Maintenance	10,663.85
	Printing/Advertising	4,385.50
	Audit/Legal/Dues	23,425.79
	Office Supplies/Equipment	4,466.69
	Technology/Postage/Other	32,444.20
	Registry of Deeds	6,176.31
	Balance	7,532.76

PUBLIC WORKS

Appropriation:	\$590,805.00	
Carried Forward from FY19:	\$17,000	
Expenditures:	Personnel Services	\$277,861.29
	Insurance	17,935.73
	Sand/Salt/other contracts	55,433.99
	Vehicle Expenses/Equip.	93,767.64
	Garage Utilities/Supplies	43,732.14
	Bridges/Culverts/signs	40,585.48
	Carry forward into paving FY21	10,535.73
	Balance	67,953.00

SOLID WASTE

Appropriation:	\$320,060.00	
Expenditures:	Personnel Services	\$75,536.35
	Insurance	2,137.79
	Bldg. Maintenance/ Water Monitoring	7,287.74
	Utilities/Supplies	4,996.80
	Disposal/Hauling/Recycling	197,518.17
	Backhoe Maintenance	1,489.38
	Engineering Services	558.75
	Balance	30,535.02

ROAD PAVING/GRAVEL ROADS

Appropriation:	\$390,062.00	
Carried forward from FY 19:	+\$9,115.00	
Expenditures:	Paving	\$371,115.00
	Striping	14,461.92
	Gravel Roads/Maintenance	11,457.12
	Balance	2,142.96

FIRST RESPONDERS

Appropriation:	\$12,750.00	
Expenditures:	Equipment/Radios	\$3,152.79
	Licensing Fees	430.00
	Malpractice/Work Comp Ins.	1,267.02
	Operations/Misc. fees	350.00
	Fuel Stipend	1,095.00
	Balance	6,455.19

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Appropriation:	\$66,100.00	
Expenditures:	Utilities	\$ 9,851.96
	Insurances	10,058.74
	Repairs	13,646.01
	Training/Equipment/Supplies	9,883.32
	Radios	3,737.74
	Bldg. Maintenance	4,623.23
	Firefighter stipend	11,099.00
	Chief Stipend	3,200.00
	Balance	.00

PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE & ANIMAL CONTROL

Appropriation:	\$85,213.00	
Expenditures:	Employee Costs	\$23,859.98
	Insurances	1,702.43
	Supplies/Vehicle Maintenance	7,238.37
	Humane Society	6,900.60
	Public Safety Dispatch fees	40,525.00
	Balance	4,986.62

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT/RESERVES

Appropriation and Reserve Use:	\$84,450.00	
Expenditures:	Stand-by Generator (carried forward into FY21)	6,500.00
	Public Works Plow Truck Reserve	50,000.00
	Riverside Fire Station Roof	15,401.15
	PW Small Plow Truck purchase	9,450.00
	Memorial Park upgrad	1,000.00
	Cross Hill Road Culvert project	5,600.00
	Balance	\$ -3,501.15

(The culvert project deficit is offset by an \$80K grant from Maine DEP not shown here.)

Municipal Expenditures

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

RECREATION/SUMMER YOUTH

Appropriation:	\$15,730.00	
Carry forward from previous years:		+ 7,084.16
Expenditures:		\$ 22,814.16
Balance		.00

LIBRARY

Appropriation:	\$33,929.00	
Expenditures:		\$33,929.00
Balance		.00

UTILITIES

Appropriation:	\$39,000.00	
Expenditures:	Street Lights	\$ 15,254.46
	Hydrant Rental	20,292.97
Balance		3,452.57

CEMETERIES

Appropriation:	\$32,000.00	
Carried from FY19:	+8,250.00	
Expenditures:	Care of Cemeteries	\$ 37,973.11
	Carried into FY 2021	2,276.89
Balance		.00

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Appropriation:	\$3,000.00	
Reimbursement from State:	+606.90	
Expenditures:	Shelter	\$ 2,712.00
Balance		894.90

ASSESSMENT

Appropriation:	\$33,200.00	
Expenditures:	Contract Assessor Costs:	\$ 27,999.96
	Maps/Dues/Supplies	2,505.77
	Postage/Tax Billing	1,600.85
Balance		1,093.42

SOCIAL SERVICES

Appropriation:	\$14,942.00	
Expenditures:	Hospice	\$1,600.00
	Food Pantry	2,000.00
	Family Violence	4,925.00
	KV Mental Health	3,500.00
	Spectrum Generations	1,000.00
	Sexual Assault & Crisis Center	1,417.00
	Literacy Volunteers	500.00
Balance		.00

MISCELLANEOUS REQUEST

Appropriation:	\$60,000.00	
Expenditures:	Historical Society	\$2,500.00
	Snowmobile Club	1,500.00
	C.R.L.A.	7,500.00
	F.A.V.O.R.	370.23
	Alewife Restoration Initiative	47,500.00
Balance		629.77

DEBT SERVICE

Appropriation:	\$76,625.00	
Expenditures:	Fire Truck Lease	
	(payment #4 of 5)	\$ 63,625.00
	Police Cruiser Lease	
	(payment #1 of 3)	13,000.00
Balance		.00

COUNTY TAX

Appropriation:	\$331,435.00	
Expenditures:		\$331,434.96
Balance		.04

EDUCATION

(Local funds only.)		
Appropriation:	\$3,671,488.00	
Expenditures:		3,671,488.00
Balance		.00



March 24, 2021

Selectboard
Town of Vassalboro
Vassalboro, Maine

We were engaged by the Town of Vassalboro, Maine and have audited the financial statements of the Town of Vassalboro, Maine as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020. The following schedules have been excerpted from the 2020 financial statements, a complete copy of which, including our opinion thereon, will be available for inspection at the Town. Included herein are:

Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds	Statement C
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	Statement E
Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budgetary Basis - Budget and Actual - General Fund	Schedule 1
Schedule of Departmental Operations - General Fund	Schedule A
Combining Balance Sheet - Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Schedule B

RHR Smith & Company

Certified Public Accountants

Statement C

Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds June 30, 2020

	General Fund	School Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 784,729	\$ 638,043	\$ -	\$ 1,422,772
Investments	1,180,121	-	-	1,180,121
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for uncollectibles):				
Taxes	340,688	-	-	340,688
Liens	101,236	-	-	101,236
Other	540	-	-	540
Due from other governments	37,950	3,475	62,754	104,179
Inventory	-	-	11,470	11,470
Prepaid items	-	3,105	-	3,105
Due from other funds	-	-	634,115	634,115
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,445,264	\$ 644,623	\$ 708,339	\$ 3,798,226
LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable	\$ 12,220	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,220
Due to other governments	30,471	-	-	30,471
Accrued expenses	7,147	420,285	-	427,432
Accrued compensated absences	57,956	3,560	-	61,516
Due to other funds	364,956	167,306	101,853	634,115
TOTAL LIABILITIES	472,750	591,151	101,853	1,165,754
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES				
Prepaid taxes	10,312	-	-	10,312
Deferred tax revenues	221,170	-	-	221,170
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	231,482	-	-	231,482
FUND BALANCES				
Nonspendable	-	3,105	107,280	110,385
Restricted	-	50,367	366,439	416,806
Committed	35,000	-	170,503	205,503
Assigned	160,353	-	64,117	224,470
Unassigned	1,545,679	-	(101,853)	1,443,826
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	1,741,032	53,472	606,486	2,400,990
TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 2,445,264	\$ 644,623	\$ 708,339	\$ 3,798,226

Statement E

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances Governmental Funds for the Year Ended June 30, 2020

	General Fund	School Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Taxes:				
Property	\$ 4,755,730	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,755,730
Excise	836,311	-	-	836,311
Intergovernmental revenues	725,108	3,947,437	655,758	5,328,303
Charges for services	78,050	-	139,242	217,292
State of Maine on-behalf payments	-	375,441	-	375,441
Other revenues	104,224	71,107	16,059	191,390
TOTAL REVENUES	6,499,423	4,393,985	811,059	11,704,467
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General government	486,924	-	-	486,924
Public safety	199,286	-	-	199,286
Public works	884,507	-	-	884,507
Culture and recreation	53,250	-	-	53,250
Social services	17,047	-	-	17,047
Education	-	7,601,462	782,169	8,383,631
County tax	331,435	-	-	331,435
Solid waste	287,247	-	-	287,247
Other	39,866	-	313,514	353,380
State of Maine on-behalf payments	-	375,441	-	375,441
Debt service:				
Principal	73,972	-	-	73,972
Interest	2,653	-	-	2,653
Capital outlay	132,508	-	13,014	145,522
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,508,695	7,976,903	1,108,697	11,594,295
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	3,990,728	(3,582,918)	(297,638)	110,172
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	79,000	3,671,488	203,084	3,953,572
Transfers (out)	(3,874,572)	-	(79,000)	(3,953,572)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	(3,795,572)	3,671,488	124,084	-
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	195,156	88,570	(173,554)	110,172
FUND BALANCES - JULY 1, RESTATED	1,545,876	(35,098)	780,040	2,290,818
FUND BALANCES - JUNE 30	\$ 1,741,032	\$ 53,472	\$ 606,486	\$ 2,400,990

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

Schedule 1

Budgetary Comparison Schedule

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Budgetary Fund Balance, July 1	\$ 1,545,876	\$ 1,545,876	\$ 1,545,876	\$ -
Resources (Inflows):				
Taxes:				
Property taxes	4,761,364	4,761,364	4,755,730	(5,634)
Excise taxes	832,500	832,500	836,311	3,811
Intergovernmental revenues:				
State revenue sharing	200,000	200,000	282,557	82,557
Local road assistance	65,250	65,250	66,916	1,666
Homestead exemption	228,502	228,502	236,175	7,673
Tree growth	15,250	15,250	16,094	844
Veterans exemptions	3,000	3,000	3,128	128
Other	24,606	135,631	120,238	(15,393)
Charges for services	77,250	77,250	78,050	800
Interest income	-	-	29,485	29,485
Interest/fees on taxes	40,000	40,000	41,080	1,080
Miscellaneous revenue	18,000	18,000	33,659	15,659
Transfers from other funds	4,000	79,000	79,000	-
Amounts Available for Appropriation	<u>7,815,598</u>	<u>8,001,623</u>	<u>8,124,299</u>	<u>122,676</u>
Charges to Appropriations (Outflows):				
General government	496,334	496,334	486,924	9,410
Public safety	203,063	253,063	199,286	53,777
Public works	980,867	1,006,982	884,507	122,475
Culture and recreation	52,159	59,243	53,250	5,993
Social services	17,942	17,942	17,047	895
County tax	331,435	331,435	331,435	-
Solid waste	320,060	320,060	287,247	32,813
Debt service:				
Principal	73,972	73,972	73,972	-
Interest	2,653	2,653	2,653	-
Capital outlay	34,450	220,475	132,508	87,967
Other	62,215	85,465	39,866	45,599
Transfers to other funds	3,844,572	3,874,572	3,874,572	-
Total Charges to Appropriations	<u>6,419,722</u>	<u>6,742,196</u>	<u>6,383,267</u>	<u>358,929</u>
Budgetary Fund Balance, June 30	<u>\$ 1,395,876</u>	<u>\$ 1,259,427</u>	<u>\$ 1,741,032</u>	<u>\$ 481,605</u>
Utilization of assigned fund balance	\$ -	\$ 41,449	\$ -	\$ (41,449)
Utilization of unassigned fund balance	150,000	245,000	-	(245,000)
	<u>\$ 150,000</u>	<u>\$ 286,449</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (286,449)</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

Schedule A

Schedule of Departmental Operations - General Fund

General Government					
Administration	\$ 463,134	\$ -	\$ 463,134	\$ 454,818	\$ 8,316
Assessment costs	33,200	-	33,200	32,106	1,094
	<u>496,334</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>496,334</u>	<u>486,924</u>	<u>9,410</u>
Public Safety					
First responder	12,750	5,000	17,750	6,350	11,400
Fire department	66,100	45,000	111,100	77,163	33,937
Hydrants	20,500	-	20,500	20,293	207
Police and animal control	85,213	-	85,213	80,226	4,987
Street lights	18,500	-	18,500	15,254	3,246
	<u>203,063</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>253,063</u>	<u>199,286</u>	<u>53,777</u>
Public Works					
Paving	390,062	9,115	399,177	382,691	16,486
Department wide	590,805	17,000	607,805	501,816	105,989
	<u>980,867</u>	<u>26,115</u>	<u>1,006,982</u>	<u>884,507</u>	<u>122,475</u>
Culture and Recreation					
Recreation	15,730	7,084	22,814	16,821	5,993
Library	33,929	-	33,929	33,929	-
Vassalboro Historical Society	2,500	-	2,500	2,500	-
	<u>52,159</u>	<u>7,084</u>	<u>59,243</u>	<u>53,250</u>	<u>5,993</u>
Capital Outlay					
	<u>34,450</u>	<u>186,025</u>	<u>220,475</u>	<u>132,508</u>	<u>87,967</u>
Social Services					
General Assistance	3,000	-	3,000	2,105	895
Social Services	14,942	-	14,942	14,942	-
	<u>17,942</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,942</u>	<u>17,047</u>	<u>895</u>
County Tax					
	<u>331,435</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>331,435</u>	<u>331,435</u>	<u>-</u>
Solid Waste					
	<u>320,060</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>320,060</u>	<u>287,247</u>	<u>32,813</u>
Debt Service					
Principal	73,972	-	73,972	73,972	-
Interest	2,653	-	2,653	2,653	-
	<u>76,625</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>76,625</u>	<u>76,625</u>	<u>-</u>
Other					
Cemeteries	32,000	8,250	40,250	37,996	2,254
Snowmobile	1,500	-	1,500	1,500	-
FAVOR	1,000	-	1,000	370	630
Contingency account	-	15,000	15,000	-	15,000
Overlay	27,715	-	27,715	-	27,715
	<u>62,215</u>	<u>23,250</u>	<u>85,465</u>	<u>39,866</u>	<u>45,599</u>
Transfers to Other Funds					
School fund	3,671,488	-	3,671,488	3,671,488	-
Special revenue funds	123,084	-	123,084	123,084	-
Capital projects funds	50,000	30,000	80,000	80,000	-
	<u>3,844,572</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>3,874,572</u>	<u>3,874,572</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Departmental Operations					
	<u>\$ 6,419,722</u>	<u>\$ 322,474</u>	<u>\$ 6,742,196</u>	<u>\$ 6,383,267</u>	<u>\$ 358,929</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

Schedule B

Combining Balance Sheet

	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Permanent Funds	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Due from other governments	\$ 62,754	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62,754
Inventory	11,470	-	-	11,470
Due from other funds	344,167	170,503	119,445	634,115
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 418,391	\$ 170,503	\$ 119,445	\$ 708,339
LIABILITIES				
Due to other funds	\$ 101,853	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 101,853
TOTAL LIABILITIES	101,853	-	-	101,853
FUND BALANCES				
Nonspendable	11,470	-	95,810	107,280
Restricted	342,804	-	23,635	366,439
Committed	-	170,503	-	170,503
Assigned	64,117	-	-	64,117
Unassigned	(101,853)	-	-	(101,853)
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	316,538	170,503	119,445	606,486
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 418,391	\$ 170,503	\$ 119,445	\$ 708,339

Schedule C

Combining Balance Sheet

	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Permanent Funds	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	\$ 655,758	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 655,758
Charges for services	139,242	-	-	139,242
Investment income, net of unrealized gains (losses)	1,684	6,855	4,520	13,059
Other income	-	1,000	2,000	3,000
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>796,684</u>	<u>7,855</u>	<u>6,520</u>	<u>811,059</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Capital outlay	-	13,014	-	13,014
Other	1,093,526	1,292	865	1,095,683
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>1,093,526</u>	<u>14,306</u>	<u>865</u>	<u>1,108,697</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	<u>(296,842)</u>	<u>(6,451)</u>	<u>5,655</u>	<u>(297,638)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	123,084	80,000	-	203,084
Transfers (out)	-	(75,000)	(4,000)	(79,000)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	<u>123,084</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>(4,000)</u>	<u>124,084</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(173,758)	(1,451)	1,655	(173,554)
FUND BALANCES - JULY 1	<u>490,296</u>	<u>171,954</u>	<u>117,790</u>	<u>780,040</u>
FUND BALANCES - JUNE 30	<u>\$ 316,538</u>	<u>\$ 170,503</u>	<u>\$ 119,445</u>	<u>\$ 606,486</u>



682

VASSALBORO

Incorporated

1771

TOWN OFFICE

OFFICE HOURS

M-W 8-4 TH 8-6:30 FR 8-12

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

June 7-8, 2021

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 7th, 2021, at 6:30 in the evening to elect a moderator to preside at said meeting, then and there to act on Articles 1 through 37, all of said articles being set out below to wit: and further to warn said voters to meet at the Vassalboro Town Office, 682 Main Street, in said Town on Tuesday, the 8th day of June 2021, then and there to act on Articles numbered 38 to 41. 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 \$225.00 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.

Terms Expire in 2021:

William Browne, Donald Breton, Chris French, Peggy Schaffer and Phillip Landry

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: 6.00%. Interest will begin to accrue **7 days after** the due date.

- One-fourth of taxes due on 09-27-21**
- One-fourth of taxes due on 11-22-21**
- One-fourth of taxes due on 02-28-22**
- One-fourth of taxes due on 04-25-22**

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 2021-2022 tax commitment:

Excise Tax	\$ 900,000
Agent Fees	20,000
Snowmobile agent fees	2,750
Boat Excise Tax	7,500
Interest/Penalties	42,000
State Revenue Sharing	280,000
State Road Assistance	58,000
Tree Growth Reimbursement	15,000
Veterans Exemption	3,000
Miscellaneous	5,000
Permit Fees	11,000
Solid Waste/Recycling	40,000
Franchise Fee/Cable Fees	30,000
Clerk Fees	8,000
TIF Development Fund	50,000
Alewife Reserve	18,000
Surplus	<u>310,000</u>
TOTAL REVENUES:	\$ 1,800,250

Selectmen Recommend: \$1,800,250
Budget Committee recommends: \$1,800,250

Article 5: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget for the following purposes, or act thereon:

Department	Selectmen Recommend	Budget Comm. Recommends
a. Administration	492,706	492,706
b. Public Works	524,417	524,417
c. Solid Waste	338,941	338,941
d. Road Paving	517,748	517,748
e. First Responders	13,500	13,500
f. Fire Department	75,150	75,150
g. Public Safety	82,371	82,371
h. Recreation	19,615	19,615
i. Library	35,000	35,000
j. Utilities	33,500	33,500
k. Cemeteries	30,125	30,125
l. General Assistance	3,000	3,000
m. Assessment	48,400	48,400
n. Debt Service	<u>13,100</u>	<u>13,100</u>
TOTALS:	2,227,573	2,227,573

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$293,500 for **Capital Improvements or Reserves** as follows:

Transfer Station Reserve:	85,000
Culvert work (Gray Road Project)	187,000
Memorial Park/Statue Restoration	4,000
Furnace for North Fire Station	<u>17,500</u>
TOTAL:	\$293,500

Selectmen Recommend: \$293,500

Budget Committee Recommends: \$293,500

Special Articles and Town Policy

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the following amounts from SURPLUS to be used as local match dollars for new equipment. These funds will be expended only in the event of a **grant award** and will not exceed the amounts listed.

a. First Responder Service	\$ 5,000
b. Fire Department	\$ 25,000

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 8: 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, except for property tax-acquired from certain elderly, low-income taxpayers who qualify for the special sale process required pursuant to 36 M.R.S. Section 943-C

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 9: 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 necessary and reasonable to implement such program, and to disburse such funds for the purpose granted.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen the option to sell or trade the 2009 Volvo wheeler truck with plow and sander and to **purchase a new truck, plow and sander** at a cost not to exceed \$230,000 to be funded from the following sources:

- \$122,000 from Public Works Truck Reserves
- \$108,000 from taxation appropriation in FY 2021-22
- \$230,000 Total cost of new truck with plow and sander

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to expend Transfer Station Reserve funds up to \$156,000 to provide up to two operational trash compactors and such other improvements at the transfer station facility as the Board of Selectmen deem necessary. (The balance of the transfer station reserve is estimated to be approximately \$156K).

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to accept gifts of labor, goods, use of equipment, and money and to implement those gifts for the donor’s intended purpose.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen or their designee to accept and to expend funds from the State and Federal Government related to the American Rescue Plan program and if said funds are received, to authorize the municipal officers to make such assurances, assume such responsibilities, and exercise such authority as necessary and reasonable to implement such program, and to disburse such funds for the purpose(s) granted.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 14: 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 15: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen, for the fiscal year 2021-2022, to **transfer funds** between appropriation accounts to avoid overdrafts so long as the grand total of all appropriations is not exceeded.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 16: 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 2022* and 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 17: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the revenues received in FY 2021-22 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 18: 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.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 19: 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

Health and Welfare Outside Agencies

Article 20: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget for the following purposes, or act thereon:

	Agency Request	Selectmen Recommend	Budget Comm. Recommends
o. Vassalboro Food Station	2,000	2,000	2,000
p. Hospice of Waterville	1,600	1,600	1,600
q. Family Violence Project	2,500	2,500	2,500
r. KV Behavioral Health	3,500	3,500	3,500
s. Spectrum Generations	1,000	1,000	1,000
t. Sexual Assault Crisis	1,519	1,417	1,417
u. Literacy Vols. – Waterville	500	500	500
v. Snowmobile Club	1,500	1,500	1,500
w. Historical Society	2,500	2,500	2,500
x. China Reg. Lakes Alliance	11,500	7,500	7,500
TOTALS:	\$28,119	\$24,017	\$24,017

Miscellaneous Accounts and Requests

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the necessary sum to cover the assessment from **Kennebec County Government** (currently estimated at \$383,911).

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to increase the **property tax levy limit** of \$527,763.90 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.

School Budget Articles to Appropriate Monies for the Fiscal Year Articles Pursuant to 20-A M.R.S.A. Section 1485

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$4,571,052.97 for **Regular Instruction**.

School Committee Recommends: \$4,571,052.97
Budget Committee Recommends: \$4,571,052.97

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$1,714,623.18 for **Special Education**.

School Committee Recommends: \$1,714,623.18
Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,714,623.18

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$5,600.00 or **Career and Technical Education**.

School Committee Recommends: \$5,600.00
Budget Committee Recommends: \$5,600.00

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$55,119.65 for **Other Instruction**.

School Committee Recommends: \$55,119.65
Budget Committee Recommends: \$55,119.65

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$307,882.99 for **Student and Staff Support**.

School Committee Recommends: \$307,882.99
Budget Committee Recommends: \$307,882.99

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$175,015.49 for **System Administration**.

School Committee Recommends: \$175,015.49
Budget Committee Recommends: \$175,015.49

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$374,470.46 for **School Administration**.

School Committee Recommends: \$374,470.46
Budget Committee Recommends: \$374,470.46

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$558,598.16 for **Transportation and Buses**.

School Committee Recommends: \$558,598.16
Budget Committee Recommends: \$558,598.16

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$511,246.82 for **Facilities Maintenance**.

School Committee Recommends: \$511,246.82
Budget Committee Recommends: \$511,246.82

Article 32: 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 33: To see what sum the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend for **All Other Expenditures**.

School Committee Recommends: \$40,000.00
Budget Committee Recommends: \$40,000.00

Articles Pursuant to 20-A, M.R.S.A. Section 15690

Article 34: 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 \$6,948,163.47) 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: \$2,573,425.00
School Committee Recommendation: \$2,573,425.00
Budget Committee Recommendation: \$2,573,425.00

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

School Committee Recommends: \$1,227,703.79 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services model by \$1,227,703.79: costs for special education, salaries and benefits, and tuition.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,227,703.79

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 36: To see what sum the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 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: \$8,313,609.72

Budget Committee Recommends: \$8,313,609.72

Article 37: 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 8th, 2021 at the Vassalboro Town Office. Absentee ballots will be processed starting at 9:00 a.m. on June 8, 2021.

Article 38: Shall an ordinance entitled "Town of Vassalboro Marijuana Business Ordinance" be enacted? (Note: A copy of said ordinance is attached to this warrant. Copies of the ordinance are available online at www.vassalboro.net and at the Town Clerk's office. The current Marijuana Ordinance will remain in effect until replaced.)

Article 39: Do you favor approving the Vassalboro Community School's budget for the upcoming school year that was adopted at the June 7, 2021 Annual Town Meeting?

Article 40: Do you wish to continue the budget validation referendum process for the Vassalboro Public Schools for an additional three years?

Informational Note:

A "YES" vote will require Vassalboro Public Schools to continue to conduct a referendum to validate its annual school budget for the next three years.

A "NO" vote will discontinue the budget validation referendum for at least three years and provide instead that the annual school budget shall be finally adopted at a meeting of the voters of the Town of Vassalboro.

Article 41: To elect all necessary municipal officers/officials by secret ballot.

Given unto our hands this ____ day of _____ 2021, AD

John G. Melrose, Chairman

Robert C. Browne, Jr., Selectman

Barbara Redmond, Selectman

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk of Vassalboro

RETURN

Kennebec, ss. State of Maine

I certify that I have notified the voters of the Town of Vassalboro of the time and place of the Town Meeting by posting an attested copy of the within warrant, along with an attested true copy of the ordinance entitled "Town of Vassalboro Marijuana Business Ordinance" at Ferris' Market, Main Street; No. Vassalboro Post Office, Main Street; Vassalboro Library, Bog Road; Vassalboro Town Office, 682 Main Street; and Getchell's Corner Post Office, Riverside Drive, being conspicuous public places within the Town of Vassalboro on _____, 2021 which is at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the start of the Annual Town Meeting.

Signed and dated at the Town of Vassalboro this ____ day of _____, 2021.

Mark Brown, Resident
Town of Vassalboro

Variance in Proposed Budget

ACCOUNT	CURRENT YEAR 2020-2021	SELECTMEN'S PROPOSED BUDGET	\$ Change	% Change	
TOWN BUDGET:					
ADMINISTRATION	\$474,294.60	\$492,706.00	\$18,411.40	3.88%	
PUBLIC WORKS	\$504,856.30	524,417.39	19,561.09	3.87%	
SOLID WASTE	\$331,017.00	338,940.92	7,923.92	2.39%	
PAVING/MAINTENANCE PROGRAM	\$424,337.00	517,748.00	93,411.00	22.01%	
FIRST RESPONDERS	\$12,750.00	13,500.00	750.00	5.88%	
FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$75,050.00	75,150.00	100.00	0.13%	
PUBLIC SAFETY	\$85,947.00	82,370.61	-3,576.39	-4.16%	
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT/RESERVES	\$157,500.00	401,500.00	244,000.00	154.92%	
RECREATION	\$25,545.00	19,615.00	-5,930.00	-23.21%	
LIBRARY	\$33,929.00	35,000.00	1,071.00	3.16%	
UTILITIES	\$32,500.00	33,500.00	1,000.00	3.08%	
CEMETERIES	\$42,000.00	30,125.00	-11,875.00	-28.27%	
GENERAL ASSISTANCE	\$3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00%	
ASSESSMENT COSTS	\$46,700.00	48,400.00	1,700.00	3.64%	
SOCIAL SERVICES	\$14,942.00	12,517.00	-2,425.00	-16.23%	
MISCELLANEOUS REQ.	\$11,900.00	11,500.00	-400.00	-3.36%	
DEBT SERVICE (Cruiser Lease)	\$76,725.00	13,100.00	-63,625.00	-82.93%	
TOTAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET	2,352,992.90	2,653,089.92	300,097.02	12.75%	
REVENUE BUDGET:					
GENERAL REVENUES	1,338,000.00	1,490,250.00	152,250.00	11.38%	
SURPLUS	166,000.00	310,000.00	144,000.00	86.75%	
HOMESTEAD AND BETE REIMB (est.)	307,145.25	307,145.25	0.00	0.00%	
TOTAL REVENUES	1,811,145.25	2,107,395.25	296,250.00	16.36%	
TAX LEVY REQUIREMENT - TOWN BUDGET					
MIL RATE MUNICIPAL	541,847.65	545,694.67	3,847.02	0.71%	
	1.63	1.63	0.00	0.11%	
COUNTY TAX:					
COUNTY TAX MIL RATE	363,624.82	383,911.00	20,286.18	5.58%	
	1.09	1.15	0.05	4.95%	
SCHOOL BUDGET:					
REGULAR INSTRUCTION	4,425,065.26	4,571,052.97	145,987.71	3.30%	
SPECIAL EDUCATION	1,468,585.42	1,714,623.18	246,037.76	16.75%	
CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION	10,500.00	5,600.00	-4,900.00	-46.67%	
OTHER INSTRUCTION	61,468.69	55,119.65	-6,349.04	-10.33%	
STUDENT & STAFF SUPPORT	308,449.59	307,882.99	-566.60	-0.18%	
SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION	170,975.16	175,015.49	4,040.33	2.36%	
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION	368,125.62	374,470.46	6,344.84	1.72%	
TRANSPORTATION & BUSES	608,660.36	558,598.16	-50,062.20	-8.22%	
FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	506,767.38	511,246.82	4,479.44	0.88%	
DEBT SERVICE & OTHER COMMITMENTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	
ALL OTHER EXPENDITURES	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	0.00%	
TOTAL SCHOOL BUDGET	7,968,597.48	8,313,609.72	345,012.24	4.33%	
TAX LEVY REQUIREMENT - SCHOOL BUDGET					
SCHOOL MIL RATE	3,719,447.83	3,801,128.79	81,680.96	2.20%	
OVERLAY (estimated)	11.18	11.36	0.18	1.59%	
Overlay mil rate	38,399.01	25,000.00	-13,399.01	-34.89%	
TIF DISTRICT	0.12	0.07	-0.04	-35.28%	
TIF mil rate	111,354.56	111,355.00	0.44	0.00%	
TIF mil rate	0.33	0.33	-0.00	-0.60%	
COMBINED TAX LEVY REQUIREMENTS	4,774,673.87	4,867,089.46	92,415.59	1.94%	
ESTIMATED COMBINED NET MIL RATE	14.35	14.54	0.19	1.33%	
VALUATIONS (estimated as of 2/18/21)	332,660,200.00	334,660,200.00	2,000,000.00	0.60%	
BUDGET TOTALS GROSS AMOUNTS					% of Budget
COUNTY TAX	363,624.82	383,911.00	20,286.18	5.58%	5.50%
MUNICIPAL BUDGET	2,352,992.90	2,653,089.92	300,097.02	12.75%	38.04%
SCHOOL BUDGET - local portion raised	3,719,447.83	3,801,128.79	81,680.96	2.20%	54.50%
OVERLAY	38,399.01	25,000.00	-13,399.01	-34.89%	0.36%
TIF DISTRICT	111,354.56	111,355.00	0.44	0.00%	1.60%
TOTAL ASSESSMENTS FOR TAX COMMITMENT	\$6,585,819.12	\$6,974,484.71	\$388,665.59	5.90%	100%

Municipal Directory

Municipal Directory

Municipal Directory

- Emergency 911
- Town Office..... 872-2826
- Public Works 923-3985
- Transfer Station..... 923-3051
- School..... 923-3100
- Library 923-3233
- Animal Control 242-6251
- 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.





Vassalboro Annual Report 2020