



Vassalboro Annual Report 2021

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250

1771 - 2021

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Dedication



The Town of Vassalboro appreciates and thanks Rob for his decades of service to the town.

Robert "Rob" Browne

This year's town report is dedicated to outgoing Selectman Robert "Rob" Browne and outgoing School Board Chair Kevin Levasseur. A lifelong resident of Vassalboro, it is speculated that Rob is the longest serving Selectman in the history of Vassalboro. True to Browne family values, Rob stepped up and finished his father Robert's term on the Board after his untimely passing in 2003. In addition to Rob's time on the Board, he is also a successful co-owner of Natanis Golf Course, Maine's only 36 hole public golf course, founded in 1965 by his grandparents, Paul and Lucy Browne. Rob has spent much of his free time giving back to the community. A volunteer on the ball field when his boys, Andrew and Justin, were young, Rob coached at all levels of baseball, served on the Augusta Recreation Board of Directors, and as a Cub Scout Leader.

In his nearly two decades of service on the Select Board, he has made decisions that have had a direct impact on every resident of the town: a home for the food pantry, the expansion of the ball fields, creation of the Vassalboro Business Association, the controversial adult business ordinance, renovations to the interior of the town office, construction of the recycling building at the Transfer Station, boat landing upgrades, creation of the Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) district, the Alewife Restoration Initiative, the marijuana business ordinance, and the use of solar power for town buildings, to name just a few.

Rob's steady hand and calm disposition, his willingness to discuss different points of view, and his genuine concern for what is right for the citizens of Vassalboro made him a valuable member of the Select Board. His thoughtful approach to spending and steadily making necessary improvements to town facilities, equipment, and various policies have always benefited the people of Vassalboro.

The town of Vassalboro appreciates and thanks Rob for his decades of service to the town and wishes him, and his wife Kim, the best in the years ahead. He will be sorely missed by all who have had the opportunity to work with him.



Kevin has always supported the Town of Vassalboro by ensuring that VCS will continue to be a viable, sustainable part of our community for generations to come.

Kevin Levasseur

Most people don't realize the amount of time that goes into being a School Board Chair. It's much, much more than just monthly meetings. Kevin has been leading the School Board for 21 years, giving copious amounts of his time and energy into advocating for VCS, its students and staff. And although not everyone has agreed with him all of the time, he always kept the needs of all the kids at the forefront when making a decision.

Kevin has been known to encourage the budget committee to see the need for certain budgetary items. He's shown up every year for the 8th Grade Promotion to wish the kids great success in their futures. Kevin has always supported the Town of Vassalboro by ensuring that VCS will continue to be a viable, sustainable part of our community for generations to come. And we thank him for his years of service, and wish him well!



Town Manager



Mary Sabins
Town Manager

I wish to thank all of my staff and the Select Board for their dedicated and talented work they perform every day for the benefit of the residents of Vassalboro.

The challenges of the Coronavirus global pandemic continued into 2021, making the ability to conduct Board and Committee meetings difficult. Virtual meetings continued for a period of time before transitioning to masked in-person meetings in large forums where social distancing could be achieved. Toward the end of the year, after mass vaccinations against the virus were made available earlier in the year, meeting restrictions were relaxed a bit to resemble a closer sense of normalcy. Mask requirements have been relaxed, although staying socially distant from one another seems to be a newly accepted standard practice.

Despite the meeting challenges, town business has continued on. For much of the winter months in 2021, at the request of some affected townspeople, the Select Board worked with the Town Attorney to draft a Marijuana Business Ordinance to regulate medical marijuana growers. The Ordinance was presented at the polls to the voters in June 2021, and it was adopted by the voters. Since that time, the Code Office has been very busy implementing the new ordinance.

April 26, 2021 marked the Town's 250th birthday! Prior to that day, months of planning went into this celebration as well as other celebration events that occurred throughout the next several months through the annual fall Vassalboro Days events. On April 26th, in the park on Rt. #32 where the Civil War Monument is located next to the China Lake Boat Launch, a new stone marker was revealed and the park was dedicated as "Monument Park". Many volunteer efforts and resources were donated by residents to the beautification of the park for this event and for future enjoyment. Our sincere thanks go out to all who participated in this beautification work and also to those who participated in the dedication ceremony that was held on site that day to commemorate the town's historical birthday event.

The summer months brought staffing changes at the town office. In June 2021, Chris French was elected to the office of Selectman, replacing John Melrose who chose not to run for reelection. Code Officer Paul Mitnik kindly agreed to train newcomer Ryan Page to become his successor before Paul retired at the end of 2021. Ryan Page studied to become a fully certified CEO/LPI and is now working solo effective January

2022. Bookkeeper Jean Poulin retired on July 2nd after having served the town for 15 years. She returned as needed over the next month or two to train new Bookkeeper Kayla Krause who transferred into that office from the Deputy Clerk desk. The Deputy Clerk vacancy was filled when newcomer Stacy Richmond of Vassalboro joined our team in October. We're glad all of them are here and doing a great job!

Also in the summer months, college intern and Vassalboro resident Savannah Clark joined us to continue work on the Cemetery Census and Mapping project that was started in the summer of 2020. I am pleased to report that Savannah completed the burial census work for all of our cemeteries! The electronic database that she built is now available to the public as a searchable database through the cemetery page of the town website at www.vassalboro.net. Be sure to check it out! Much appreciation is extended to Savannah for the mountain of work that she accomplished last summer. In the summer of 2022, signs will be installed in the North Village Cemetery to mark the sections that were designated and identified during the census project to help the public in locating graves of loved ones. Signage in other cemeteries will be accomplished over the next few years as funding allows.



Photo by Mary Sabins

Summer Intern Savannah Clark working on Cemetery Census

In the fall of 2021, the Federal Government released American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds to provide relief to municipalities across America that were affected by the pandemic. Vassalboro is slated to receive just over \$461 thousand, half of which has already been received; the other half will be received in the fall of 2022. The Select Board has been collecting input from Department Heads and others as to how best to spend the ARPA funds, with no decisions made as of yet. Restrictions for fund usage has been applied by the Government, with reporting requirements for actual expenditures.

Many other projects were undertaken in 2021. Be sure to check out the stories and photos in the department reports and committee updates contained in the following pages of this book!

In closing, I wish to thank all of my staff and the Select Board for the dedicated and talented work they perform every day for the benefit of the residents of Vassalboro. I'm very proud to know them and to work along side them!

Directory of Officials

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Photo by Mary Sabins

(Select Board Members L-R) Chris French, Robert Browne, Barbara Redmond

SELECT BOARD/OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

2022 Robert Browne, Chairman
2023 Barbara Redmond
2024 Christopher French

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

2022 Kevin Levasseur, Chairman
2024 Jolene Clark Gamage
2023 Erin Libby Loiko
2023 Zachary Smith
2022 Jessica Clark

PLANNING BOARD

2022 Virginia Brackett, Chair
2022 Betsy Poulin
2023 Douglas Phillips
2023* Sally Butler
2022 John Phillips
2023 Marianne Stevens
2023 Paul Mitnik, Alternate

BUDGET COMMITTEE

2022 Rick Denico, Jr., Chairman
2023 Donald Breton
2023 Dallas Smedberg
2022 Frank Richards
2022 Douglas Phillips
2022 Mike Poulin
2023 Peggy Schaffer
2023 William Browne
2022 Richard Bradstreet
2023 Phillip Landry

BOARD OF APPEALS

2023 Leon Duff
2023 John Reuthe
2022 Rebecca Lamey
2023 Kevin Reed
2022 Steve Assante

SANITARY DISTRICT

2022 Ray Breton, Chairman
2024 Lee Trahan

2022 Alfred Roy
2023 vacant
2023 Rebecca Goodrich, Treasurer

RECREATION COMMITTEE

2022 Brian Stanley, Director
2022 Christian Robinson
2022 Karen Howard
2022 Mary Presti
2022 John Fortin
2022 Becky Jenkins
2022 Melissa Olson

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

2023 Holly Weidner
2022 Steve Jones
2024 Helen Devoe
2023 Paul Mitnik
2024 David Jenney
2024 Peggy Horner

TOWN CLERK

2022 Catherine Coyne

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

2022 Jane Aiudi
2022 Russell Smith
2022 Tom Richards
2022 Steve Asante
2022 David Jenney
2022 Sue Haines, Chair
2022 Jody Kundreskas
2022 Savannah Clark

TRAILS COMMITTEE

2022 John Melrose, Chair
2022 Richard Behr
2022 Meredith Cain
2022 Holly Weidner
2022 Paul Oxley
2022 Paul Mitnik
2022 Ryan Douglas

FIRST RESPONDER SERVICE

2022 Dan Mayotte, Director
2022 Paul Begin, Ass't Director

FIRE CHIEF

2022 Walker Thompson

POLICE CHIEF

2022 Mark Brown

HEALTH OFFICER

2022 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

*Resigned

Town Clerk

Catherine Coyne

Town Clerk

Photo by Mary Sabins



Town Office Staff (L to R): Kayla Krause, Bookkeeper; Cathy Coyne, Town Clerk; Stacy Richmond, Deputy Clerk

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

I would like to first start off with welcoming Stacy Richmond as our new Deputy Town Clerk/Deputy Registrar. Stacy joined us in October filling in the position left by Kayla Krause when Kayla moved onto Bookkeeper. With no prior Municipal experience, Stacy quickly picked up on learning the many aspects of Clerking and has been a great asset to the office. At right Stacy gets sworn in as Notary Public by previous Clerk James Schad, Dedimus Justice.

Certified Copies of Death, Birth, and Marriage Certificate 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. 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 not 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.



Photo by Cathy Coyne

Dedimus Justice Jim Schad swears in Stacy Richmond into office as a notary.

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

PARTY A	PARTY B	DATE MARRIED
O'Hara, Sean Ian	Stump, Alicia Ann	03/03/2021
Saunders, Ria Kathleen	Feinberg, Robert Andrew	03/27/2021
Williams, Linda Jean	Erving, John Paul	04/17/2021
Piecewicz, Danielle E	Larrabee, David A II	05/01/2021
Clark, Jared T.	Conley, Ashley Nicole	05/08/2021
Bennett, Steven Lloyd	Fowler, Jazmine Renee	05/23/2021
Christiansen, Elizabeth R.	Matteson, Roland Francis	06/05/2021
Geaghan, Eliza Jo	Forbes, Roderick Alden II	06/12/2021
Andrews, Laura Anne	Foster, Dominick Michael	07/02/2021
Fortin, Justin Free	Noiles, Katie Anne	07/03/2021
Michaud, Ruth Gilberte	Glazier, Thomas Byron	07/24/2021
Kolb, Alexander Daniel	Eastman, Katie Sue	08/07/2021
O'Connor, Audrey Katherine	Cain, Tyler Mark	08/06/2021
Morey, Tonia Lynn	Barnett, James John	08/14/2021
Lawson, Colin Andrew	Bolduc, Courtney Jane	08/14/2021
Blais, Hope Elizabeth	Storen, John Albert IV	08/24/2021
Jaramillo, Haley Lara	Gauvin, Gabriel Michael	08/31/2021

Town Clerk

Continued...Marriage Licenses that were recorded from March 3, 2020 – February 28, 2021.

Alexander, Larissa Joyce	Smiley, Craig Stratton	09/04/2021
Gifford, Stanley William	Redmond, Jenifer Lynn	09/11/2021
Shorey, James Adam	Tschornobia, Sunny Mae	09/25/2021
Constanzer, Daniel David	Michaud, Jessica Elaine	10/05/2021
Dykeman, Kassaundra J	Luce, Jacob Ray	10/11/2021
Reynolds, Kasaundra L.	Columbia, Michael C.	10/19/2021
Fortin, Madelyn Lelia	McKenzie, Brody Liam	10/23/2021
Littlehale, Cameo Rita	Bashaw, Allen Scott	10/30/2021
Dailey, Jillian Elizabeth	Carey, Christopher L	12/01/2021
Pelletier, Carol Janet	Siviski, Thomas Frank	12/07/2021
Lund, Marjorie W	Labbe, Jamie Cecil	12/18/2021
Banana, Savannah C.	Wade, McKenzie Jordan	12/25/2021
Brockelbank, Helene M.	Steele, Fred Lester	12/26/2021
Severson, Kelsi D.	Fitzpatrick, Ryan A.	12/30/2021
Frost, Tammi Jo	Pelletier, Daniel J	01/15/2022
Carter, Hurbert W. Jr.	Gagnon, June Rae	02/05/2022

There were 44 births to Vassalboro residents from February 24, 2021 – February 28, 2022.

Vital Statistic information listed below pertains to deaths from March 2, 2020 – February 29, 2021

In Memory Of:

NAME	AGE	LOCATION	DATE OF DEATH	NAME	AGE	LOCATION	DATE OF DEATH
Bailey, James E.	68	Vassalboro	03/08/2021	Westman, Mark Robert	69	Bangor	10/23/2021
O'Keefe, Betty Joyce	91	Waterville	03/09/2021	Pooler, Sharon A.	64	Augusta	10/26/2021
Robinson, Lester Jr.	71	Augusta	03/25/2021	Thibodeau, Tina Marie	45	Vassalboro	11/07/2021
McNeil, William A.	58	Rockport	03/30/2021	Gauer, Ernest Arthur	85	Waterville	11/08/2021
Greenleaf, Walter L. Jr.	84	Vassalboro	04/01/2021	Bourassa, George Henry	85	Vassalboro	11/15/2021
Hinkley, Randolph Lee	62	Togus USVA	05/13/2021	Steeves, Nancy C.	69	Augusta	11/22/2021
Upton, Marissa L.	18	Wayne	06/02/2021	Brandt, Kevin M.	44	Vassalboro	11/30/2021
Blackmon, Patricia Lynn	49	Vassalboro	06/03/2021	Alley, Marilyn I.	81	Vassalboro	12/03/2021
Pomerleau, Diane B.	66	Vassalboro	06/04/2021	Davidson, Fred Lloyd Sr.	79	Presque Isle	12/17/2021
Cookson, Muriel M.	82	Vassalboro	06/07/2021	Irwin, Flint Hamilton	33	Auburn	12/20/2021
Dudley, Raynold L. Sr.	67	Augusta	06/21/2021	Messier, Amy J.	59	Bangor	12/04/2021
Breton, Brandon Michael	21	Sidney	06/08/2021	Mills, Charles Wesley	91	Augusta	12/06/2021
Snow, Christie G.	88	Belfast	06/29/2021	Mughmaw, Crystal Lee	70	Vassalboro	01/03/2022
Tompkins, John A.	47	Bangor	07/07/2021	French, Albert Byron	79	Vassalboro	01/05/2022
Richards, Winthrop R.	84	Vassalboro	07/09/2021	Poulin, Michael Robert	68	Vassalboro	01/05/2022
DeMerchant, John Robert	81	Waterville	07/25/2021	Crosby, Howard E.	87	Augusta	01/06/2022
Richards, Geraldine Lynn	50	Vassalboro	07/27/2021	Cain, Richard B.	84	Vassalboro	01/13/2022
Cunningham, Monti L. Jr.	88	China	08/01/2021	Cook, Colleen Susan	68	Portland	01/10/2022
Rowe, Bruce E.	63	Vassalboro	08/09/2021	Bowers, Wayne Ellison	80	Vassalboro	01/17/2022
Tavares, Kenneth A.	61	Vassalboro	08/11/2021	Butler, James F. III	89	Vassalboro	01/30/2022
Sutter, Brenda A.	72	Augusta	08/16/2021	Vigue, Jeannine Cecilia	85	Augusta	02/02/2022
Dyer, Gayl N.	80	Augusta	08/31/2021	Dyer, Thomas A.	80	Augusta	02/04/2022
Gray, Lane Harold	58	Vassalboro	09/21/2021	Brackett, Roy Augustus Jr	89	Vassalboro	02/05/2022
Flick, Richard Edward Sr.	87	Vassalboro	10/19/2021	Lessard, Gerard R.	74	Waterville	02/10/2022
Nadeau, Docite	81	Vassalboro	10/21/2021	Hutchinson, Elaine	80	Vassalboro	02/13/2022
Bragg, John W	90	Vassalboro	10/22/2021	Westman, Judith E.	72	Waterville	02/19/2022

United States Senate

Dear Friends:

I am deeply honored to serve the people of Maine in the U.S. Senate, and I welcome this opportunity to share some of the areas I have been working on over the past year.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose enormous challenges for our state and our country. When the pandemic began, I co-authored the Paycheck Protection Program that helped small businesses remain afloat and keep their employees paid. In Maine, our small businesses received more than 47,000 forgivable loans totaling \$3.2 billion. I also led efforts to provide relief for loggers, lobstermen, and bus companies.

In addition, I helped secure \$700 million to assist Maine's overwhelmed hospitals and nursing homes, and a new law I led prevented Medicare payment cuts to help further ease the financial strain on our hospitals. I also urged the CDC to update its recommendations so that our students and teachers could safely return to their classrooms, and I pressed the Administration to end the closure of the U.S.-Canada border.

While addressing the pandemic has been a major focus, I've also worked hard to ensure Maine's other needs are met. A group of 10 Senators, of which I was a part, negotiated the landmark bipartisan infrastructure bill that was signed into law in November. I co-authored the section of the bill that will provide Maine with as much as \$300 million to expand high-speed internet in rural and underserved areas.

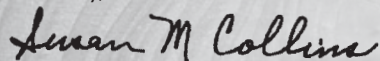
Soaring inflation is another crisis, particularly when it comes to the cost of heating oil. I have strongly supported federal programs that help Maine families stay warm. In November, Maine was awarded \$35 million to help low-income Mainers pay their energy bills. And the bipartisan infrastructure bill included \$3.5 billion to help families make energy efficiency improvements that would permanently lower their heating costs.

As a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, I have supported investments in Maine's communities. This year's funding bills include \$265 million I championed for 106 projects across Maine. These projects would help create jobs, improve workforce training, address the opioid crisis, and increase access to childcare and health care services. In addition, I worked to reverse proposed cuts to our Navy in order to help protect America and keep the skilled workers at Bath Iron Works on the job. The bills also include \$475 million for the construction of a new dry dock at Maine's Portsmouth Naval Shipyard that will allow the Navy to continue to carry out its submarine missions. I will keep working to get these important bills enacted.

No one works harder than the people of Maine, and this year I honored that work ethic when I cast my 8,000th consecutive vote, becoming the only Senator in history to do so without ever having missed a roll call vote. The Lugar Center at Georgetown University once again ranked me as the most bipartisan Senator for the eighth year in a row.

In the New Year, I will keep working to solve problems and make life better for the people of Maine and America. May 2022 be a happy, healthy, and successful one for you, your family, and our state.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins

United States Senator

United States Senate

January 1, 2022

Dear Friends,

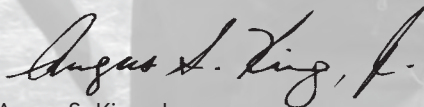
On the heels of 2020's challenges, 2021 brought us both amazing progress and frustrating setbacks. The incredible rollout of several effective, FDA approved COVID-19 vaccines helped reduce the risks of this deadly pandemic – but vaccine hesitancy, combined with the dangers of new variants, have prolonged this crisis and created new risks for Maine people. The challenges raised tension levels to boiling points during the fallout of the 2020 presidential election and the January 6th Capitol attack. But despite that, Congress was able to deliver for a nation gripped by an unprecedented pandemic. As we reflect back on the year, we see the important action that will make a difference for Maine people – as well as work still unfinished.

As COVID-19 continued to impact communities across our state and the country, Congress's first priority this year was to confront the pandemic's health threats and economic toll. We immediately got to work on the American Rescue Plan, crafting an emergency bill to meet the moment and get our nation back on stable footing. The legislation delivered essential support to businesses facing crises, households in need, and the medical professionals on the front lines of this fight. The funds helped get vaccine shots in arms, while also confronting the damage done to our economy. All told, the American Rescue Plan is bringing billions of dollars to Maine, helping the state continue to push through this crisis and bounce back stronger than ever.

After passing the American Rescue Plan, Congress turned its attention to a longstanding but unfulfilled priority: infrastructure. Through hard work and compromise, both parties came together to pass a bipartisan bill that finally addresses key infrastructure needs. For Maine people, the bill means an estimated \$1.5 billion to repair crumbling roads and out-of-date bridges, \$390 million to improve access to clean drinking water, and more. I am most excited about the significant funding for broadband – because, as we have seen during the pandemic, broadband is a necessity to succeed in the 21st century economy. The historic investments in the bipartisan infrastructure bill, combined with additional funding I pushed for in the American Rescue Plan, will bring an estimated \$400 million for broadband home to Maine. These funds will be nothing short of transformational, creating new opportunities across our state.

These two bills have made and will continue to make a real difference for Maine people, helping to both address the challenges of COVID-19 and lay a foundation for long-term success. I am proud of what we've accomplished this year – but I know there is still a lot of work to do and that the road ahead is challenging. Even still, I am filled with optimism because I know the true nature of our citizens, though challenged, has not changed. Despite every hardship, people in towns and communities have stepped up with strong local leadership, a willingness to help, and a Maine 'neighborhood' spirit. It is why I truly believe we can and will get through anything together. Mary and I wish you a happy, healthy, and safe 2022.

Best Regards,



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Senate of Maine

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your State Senator. I am humbled by the trust you have placed in me to be a voice for you, your family, and our community. I can assure you I will continue to work tirelessly on your behalf.

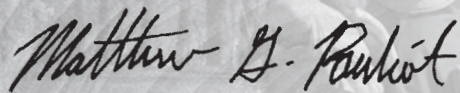
The 1st session of the 130th Legislature was different than any previous session of the Maine Legislature. Zoom meetings replaced in person committee hearings and work sessions and it was certainly a learning process for everyone. As COVID-10 restrictions lifted, the Legislature met in person starting in June. It was high time we returned to the State House so that Legislators could speak in person to one another. The lack of human connection, so essential to accomplishing meaningful work for our constituents, made itself felt in the partisan nature of this session. The 130th Legislature has a great deal of work still to do in the 2nd Regular session; I believe that working together, we can affect positive change.

Before our adjournment on July 19th, the Legislature passed a supplemental budget as well as legislation directing how the American Rescue Plan funds will be spent. I strongly opposed increasing taxes and was pleased no new taxes will be placed on the Maine people as a result of those two initiatives.

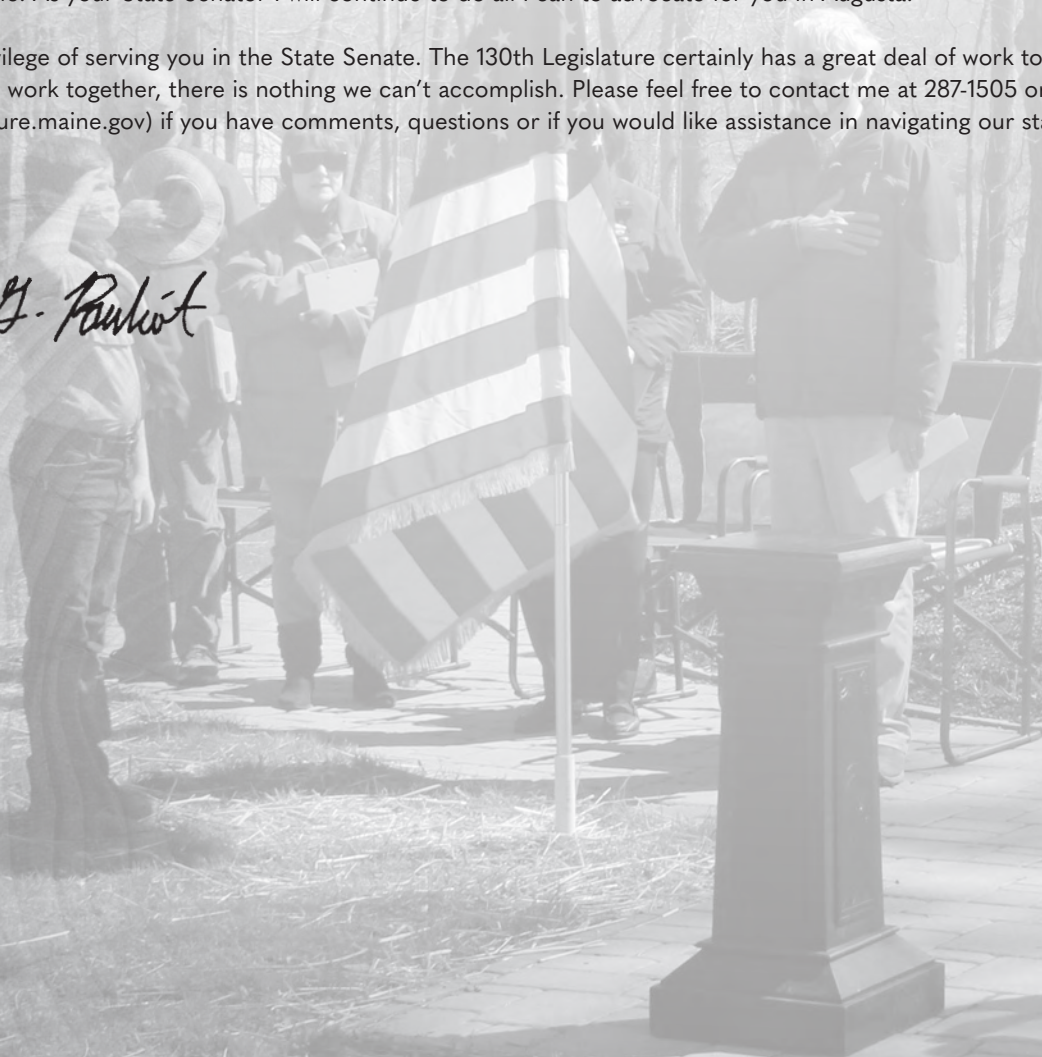
The 2nd Regular session began in January and I am eager to discuss the issues important to all of you. I have heard from many of you regarding the increasing costs consumers are facing, as well as the countless ways the pandemic has affected every aspect of your life. As your State Senator I will continue to do all I can to advocate for you in Augusta.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you in the State Senate. The 130th Legislature certainly has a great deal of work to do. But I believe that if we work 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 Pouliot
State Senator



Congress of the United States

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well. It is an honor to represent you and your family during these challenging times, and I am thankful for the opportunity to update you on my work in Washington and Maine.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause challenges for people in Maine and across the country. Please know that the health and safety of you and your loved ones, as well as the economic recovery of our communities, remains the driving force behind legislation I have pushed for in Congress.

In early 2021, Congress passed the American Rescue Plan, historic legislation that makes investments to crush the virus, create millions of jobs, provide direct relief to working families, and help schools remain safely open. Not only did this legislation give 90 percent of American households a stimulus check, but it also helped local and state governments better respond to the pandemic, put food on families' tables, got more vaccine shots into arms, cut child poverty in half through the expanded Child Tax Credit, and so much more. The American Rescue Plan is one of the most important pieces of legislation Congress will ever pass, and I'm so proud to have supported it from the beginning. You can read more about this piece of legislation here: <https://pingree.house.gov/covid>.

Our economic recovery from the pandemic will be accelerated even more thanks to the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which Congress passed in November. This legislation marks the most expansive infrastructure investment since the construction of the interstate highway system. From funding to repair our aging roads, bridges, and ports to high-speed broadband expansion and legacy pollution clean-up, this law is a once-in-a-generation investment in our future.

In addition to working on COVID-19 relief legislation, my Congressional colleagues and I are also collaborating on legislation that addresses the climate crisis, supports voting rights, and—through my role on the House Appropriations Committee—supports programs important to Maine.

After seven years on the House Appropriations Committee, I took the gavel and lead the subcommittee that oversees discretionary spending for the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, US Forest Service, and several agencies related to the arts and humanities. In my new role as Chair, I have fought to secure significant funding for Maine's tribes, environmental preservation programs, our cultural economy, and our forests.

I will keep pushing legislation to support America's long-term care needs, lower prescription drug costs, expand Medicare benefits, cut taxes for working people, make our workforce competitive with the world, and fight climate change.

So, as we reflect on 2021, let us welcome 2022 with a renewed sense of optimism. There is a lot to fight for, and I assure you I will continue to fight for Maine in Congress. I want you to know that my staff and I are doing all we can to support Mainers through this public health crisis and all the challenges that come with it. If you are unsure of the resources available to you, are having difficulty accessing resources, or if you'd just like to share a thought or opinion, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

House of Representatives

February 2022

Dear Friends and Neighbors of Vassalboro,

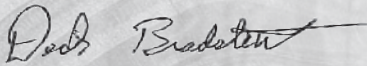
As we start the new year, I wanted to express my appreciation that you have once again entrusted me with the responsibility of being your State Representative. I continue to proudly serve on the Labor and Housing Committee.

The first session of the 130th Legislature convened in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which meant we met in the Augusta Civic Center every few weeks through May 19 to preserve social distancing for safety. This enabled us to begin voting on over two thousand bills that were before us. Committee meetings and hearings were and continue to be streamed on "Zoom". We did finally get back to our chamber in the State House and finished business on July 19. We met again briefly this fall to vote on redistricting.

I encourage you to actively participate in your state government. Phone calls and letters are always welcome. With the wider use of technology, meetings and hearings are more accessible than ever. Using the homepage of the Maine Legislature: Legislature.Maine.Gov, you will find access to Zoom meetings and YouTube videos. I also send a weekly email with current state news. If you wish to receive these updates, please contact me at Richard.Bradstreet@legislature.maine.gov and I will gladly add you to our list.

Again, thank you for giving me the honor and privilege of serving you at the State House and may you all have a safe and healthy 2022.

Sincerely,



Richard T. Bradstreet
State Representative

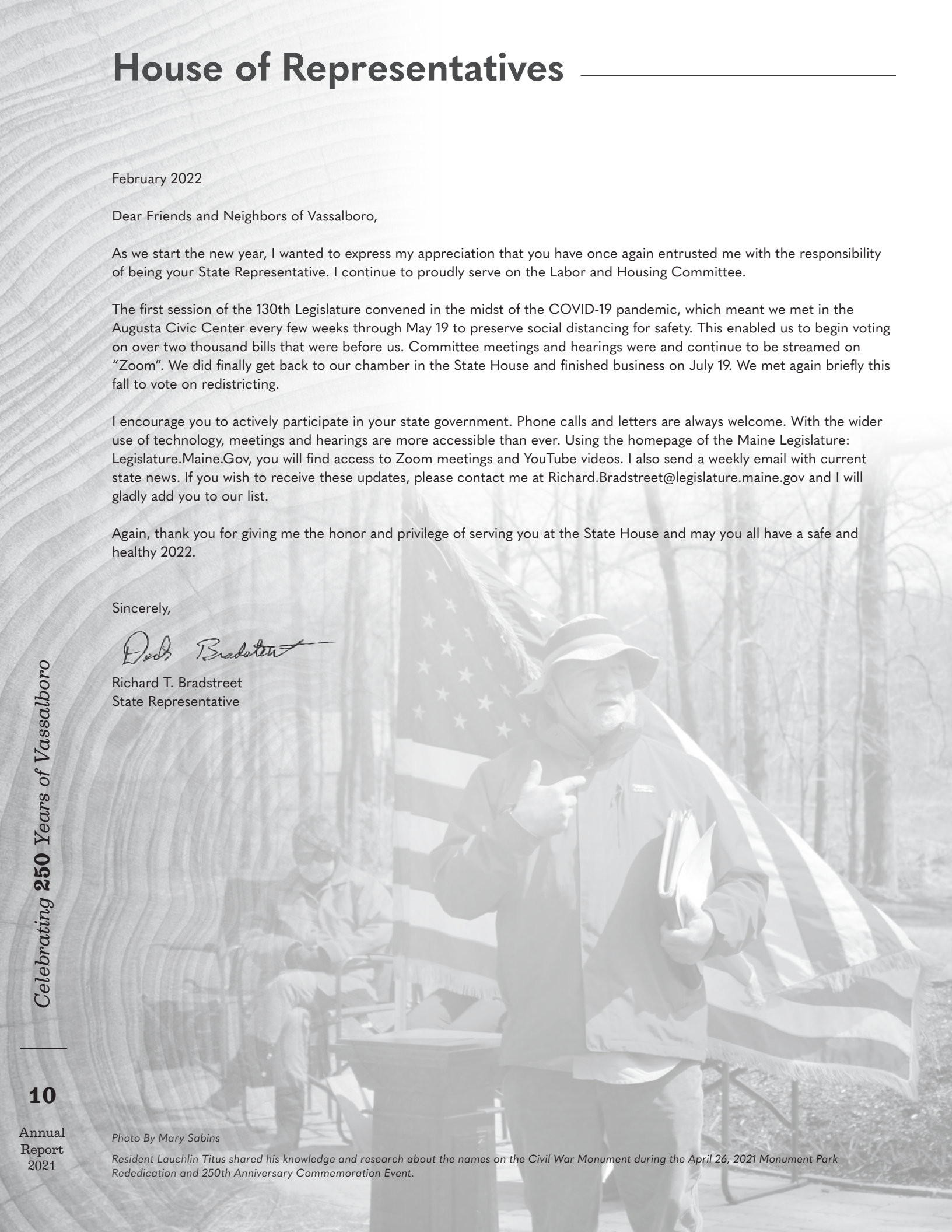
Celebrating 250 Years of Vassalboro

10

Annual
Report
2021

Photo By Mary Sabins

Resident Lauchlin Titus shared his knowledge and research about the names on the Civil War Monument during the April 26, 2021 Monument Park Rededication and 250th Anniversary Commemoration Event.



Police Department

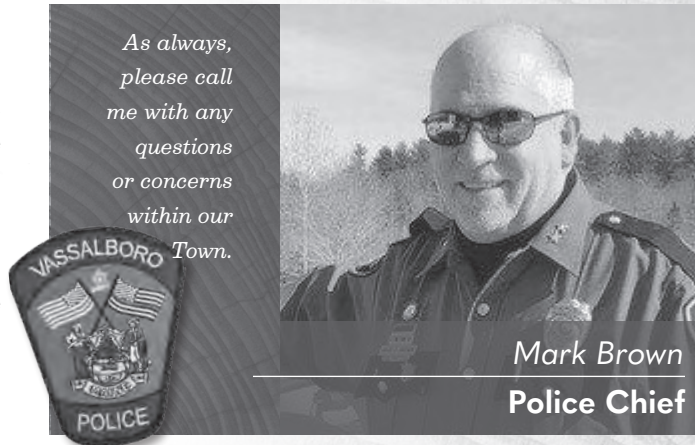
The Town continues to see an increase in incidents and calls for service each year. I work with the Kennebec Sheriff's Office and Maine State Police in providing police services to our community. I have also worked closely with our Fire Department and first responders at scenes throughout the past year.

The increase in the opioid epidemic has seen several overdoses within our Town and neighboring communities. Please reach out for assistance if you or any family members or friends are looking for help in combating this terrible addiction.

Accidental 911 calls into our Regional Communications Center also continue to be an issue. Again, if this occurs, please provide the dispatcher with the necessary information they request to assist in confirming the mistake was made.

Several thefts from vehicles were reported over the past year. These included items stolen from within the owners unlocked cars, as well as several catalytic converters stolen from vehicles parked or left unattended in mostly the rural areas. To assist in preventing these thefts, please lock your vehicles and park in well-lit areas when possible to help deter the thefts.

If you are leaving town for an extended period, please don't hesitate to call or email me to inform me of the dates and I will make property checks on your residence while you are away. Home security systems are also a recommended item



*As always,
please call
me with any
questions
or concerns
within our
Town.*

Mark Brown
Police Chief

for residents, which will also provide safety and peace of mind for you and your family while you're away or even while you are at home.

I have continued to perform welfare checks on elderly citizens within our town each year, especially during the winter months. If you need a family relative or friend checked on, please call, or email me.

As always, please call me with any questions or concerns within our Town. I can be reached on my 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.

Registrar of Voters

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

The Municipal Election was held on June 8, 2021. Christopher French was chosen for Selectmen/Overseer of the Poor with 128 votes. Jolene Clark-Gamage, with 134 votes, won the position on the School Committee.

The Statewide Referendum Election was held on November 2, 2021. 1,444 Ballots were cast. Also on November 2nd, the Town held a Special Referendum Election asking voters to enact the "Town of Vassalboro Mass Gathering Ordinance". Voters chose not to enact the Ordinance with 698 voting No and 615 voting yes.

At the printing of this report, there are 3,389 registered voters.

The breakdown is as follows:

- Democratic = 979
- Green = 163
- Unenrolled = 1072
- Republican = 1172
- Libertarian = 3

Catherine Coyne
Registrar of Voters



Photo by Cathy Coyne

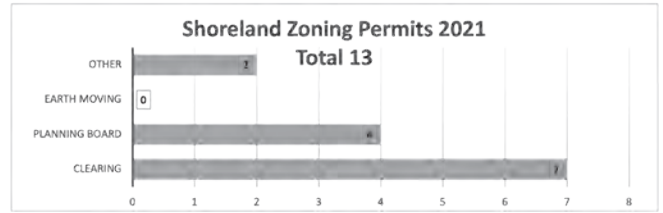
Code Enforcement



I am grateful for this opportunity and excited to serve the people of Vassalboro with their future projects.

Ryan Page
CEO/LPI/BI/ 911-Addressing Officer

The year 2021 saw a “Changing of the Guard” in the Code Enforcement Department, as Paul Mitnik officially retired on 31 December. I was able to spend valuable time with Paul as he transitioned into retirement. A little about myself, my name is Ryan Page and I was raised in Windsor, Maine. After graduating from Erskine Academy in 1995, I enlisted in the United States Air Force and later in the Air National Guard. I served for 25 years before I decided I was ready for the next chapter. Luckily, my next chapter returned me home and to the great town of Vassalboro. I am grateful for this opportunity and excited to serve the people of Vassalboro with their future projects.



A total of 13 Shoreland Zoning permits were issued in 2021 compared to 32 in 2020.

Vassalboro welcomed new changes to the statewide building code referred to as the Maine Building and Energy Code (MUBEC). July 2021, Maine adopted the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) which will require new measures in insulation and air sealing.

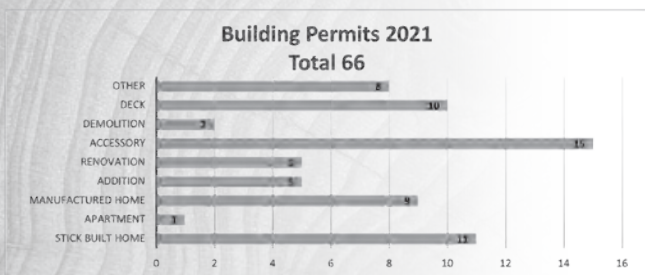
1. The insulation requirement for wood frame walls is R-20 now is changing to R-20+5 or R-13+10. The first value is cavity insulation of the amount between wall studs. The second value is continuous insulation or insulation which covers everything including the wall studs. The continuous insulation typically is one inch rigid foam installed on the building exterior under the siding. It can also be one inch rigid foam installed in the building interior under the drywall.

2. The insulation requirement for a basement or crawl space wall is R-10 now is changing to R 15/19 or R-15 continuous insulation on the interior or exterior of the foundation wall or R-19 cavity insulation on the interior of the foundation wall. Continuous insulation can be 3” rigid foam or 2” of spray foam. Foam insulation installed on the inside has to be fire protected with 15 minute paint, drywall or the use of thermax insulation. Cavity insulation typically requires wood framing adjacent to the foundation wall.

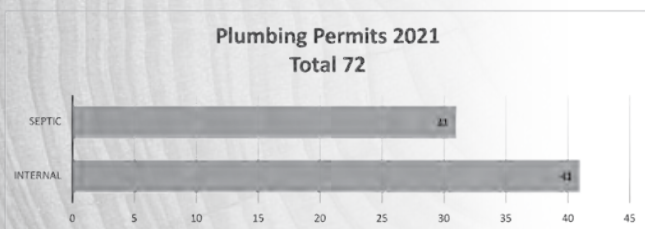
3. A blower door test is required to assure that air leakage from the home does not exceed 3 air exchanges per hour. You will have to hire an independent qualified professional to do this test. A written report of the results of the test shall be signed by the professional and provided to the Town’s Building Inspector. Satisfactory results of this test is necessary before you can obtain authorization for residence / certificate of occupancy.

4. Table 402.4.1.1 (Air Barrier and Insulation Installation) from the IECC is provided to aid in the achievement of the air exchange rate of < 3 exchanges per hour.

5. A Whole House Mechanical Ventilation System is required by the 2015 International Residential Building Code due to the air exchange rate being less than 5 air exchanges per hour. This can possibly be achieved by retrofitting your bathroom(s) fans with timers. The party doing your blower door test may have some good advice on this issue. As a final point, I would like to continue the tradition of assisting the people of Vassalboro by being available to help with any applications or paperwork that you will need throughout your project. As a reminder, new or expanded businesses, construction within Shoreland Zoning and subdivisions of land may also need Planning Board review. My office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Wednesday from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM.



A total of 66 building permits valued at approximately \$3.9 million were issued in 2021 compared to 80 permits in 2020 valued at \$6.1 million.



A total of 72 plumbing permits were issued in 2021 compared to 82 in 2020.

Alewife Restoration Initiative

Alewife Restoration Initiative: Ready, Set, Go!

Matt Streeter

ARI Project Manager

Maine Rivers and Alewife Restoration Initiative partners are pleased to report 2021 was a busy and successful year that allowed us to make great progress. Accomplishments included the installation of a new fish-friendly technical fishway at the China Lake Outlet dam and the removal of the remnants of the Morneau old dam. We were also able to give an upgrade to the Outlet dam gatehouse and fix an area of erosion along the Ladd dam impoundment. With these projects completed, for the first time since the colonial era, native migratory alewives will be able to freely make their way from the ocean to China Lake. Adults and young fish can safely exit the lake. We look forward to watching this run of alewives rebound!

Construction of the China Lake Outlet fishway started in the early spring of 2021 and was completed in October. Sand bags were used to divert the water during construction, plywood forms were created to hold the concrete walls of the fishway. The fishway design was finalized over several years of meetings with project partners with key input from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Maine Department of Marine Resources. Construction was done by Wyman & Simpson, Inc. The dam is used to manage the water level of China Lake following a lake level order. The project included installation of a top-opening gate systems to manage downstream fish migration, and ensure that alewives are able to migrate out of the lake freely. We are grateful to Cates family, who generously allowed us access to the stream and work site via their property.

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 Alewife Restoration Initiative tackled six fish passage barriers. Over seven years, three dams were removed and three technical fishways were installed. We think we set a record to get so much of this work done in such a short time!

We're grateful to funders, partners and many project supporters including: Natural Resource Conservation Service, Town of Vassalboro, Town of China, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program, Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, Kennebec Savings Bank, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Sebasticook Regional Land Trust, China Region Lakes Alliance, China Lake Association and its members, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Community Foundation, The Nature Conservancy in Maine, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an Anonymous Foundation, and many generous individuals.

www.mainerivers.org



Photo by Mary Sabins

Construction of fishway at Outlet Stream Dam

Conservation Commission

Holly Weidner

Chair

The Vassalboro Conservation Commission (VCC) had a full year working on, among other things, two areas of our mission from the 2006 Town Strategic Plan: 1) to increase public access to our natural resources and 2) to promote stewardship of our water resources.

With help from the public works crew, a fishing pier was installed in July on China Lake in front of Monument Park for the public to enjoy the lake, away from the busy boat landing. Within days, many had discovered the pier and soon it was being used daily by families, group outings and individuals taking in the tranquility.

VCC was also instrumental in helping the town retain a tax-acquired property on the China Lake Outlet Stream to start developing this into a beautiful place for recreation: fishing, birdwatching and picnicking. Eagles and Great Blue herons are seen frequently here, hence it's suggested name: Eagle Park.

The third area of increased access was assisting the Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) (a nonprofit conservation owner paying town taxes) in the procurement of an additional parcel of property abutting the present Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat (VWH) lands, owned and maintained by KLT. VWH has well maintained trails leading to Webber Pond and the acquisition of the new parcel will help maintain a natural corridor for wildlife along a wetland that extends from Winslow to Augusta. The VCC also recommended the town become a KLT member in recognition of all three parcels of property that they maintain within the town that provide trails, preservation of natural areas, and hunting access.

As stewards of the town's water resources, VCC has started to work more closely with China Region Lakes Alliance (CRLA) to promote voluntary programs that curb or prevent runoff from private roads and camps around Webber and Three Mile Pond such as the Lake Smart program and the Gravel Road Program. Preventing the erosion of lake quality is always cheaper than trying to fix it. VCC recommends that the town support these programs in 2022 with the VCC providing oversight for the town with volunteers from the lake association and regular reporting of progress. The VCC thanks the CRLA for their continued oversight of the Courtesy Boat Inspection at all three of the town's lakes as a means to prevent invasive plants from entering our lakes. The \$7500/year that is spent by the town on this program is far cheaper than the \$50-100,000/lake that nearby towns have had to pay to eradicate invasive plants once they have been introduced. (The \$7500 comes from some of the proceeds from the alewife sales on Webber Pond.)

The Alewife Restoration Initiative reached its final year with the installation of the fish ladder at China Lake Outlet Stream dam, the removal of the Morneau dam, and the completion of the Box Mill dam fish way. VCC offered advice to the town on providing some TIF funds to complete the project so as to preserve the mill pond above the Box Mill dam that is one of the few sources of public swimming for town people, thanks to access provided by the private landowner, Ray Breton. The town looks forward to starting to receive revenue in a few years from sale of the alewives from the outlet stream. About \$25,000 of revenue was brought in from sale of alewives from the Webber Pond fish way in 2021.

Lastly with attention to the town's water resources, it was discovered that a wild brook trout pool with a natural spring that is in the Webber pond watershed was mistakenly filled in during a culvert replacement in 2020. Through the work of members of VCC, local land owners and the Department of Environmental Protection, the pond was restored. Whether the trout will return, it won't be known until spring 2022.

The VCC continues to have concerns with the decreasing recycling numbers since the rocky situation with the failure of the "no-sort" solid waste disposal plant in Hampden. The VCC recommends that the town form a Recycling/Solid Waste committee to study the changing situation and advise the town as to its options for the best solution to reduce trash presently going to the landfill.

With concerns about the effects of carbon pollution on our environment and the cost of this on the most vulnerable in our town, the VCC recommended in January 2021 that the town support a Cash Back Fee and dividend program being proposed at the federal level. This would tax the fossil fuel companies at the source of carbon removal from the earth. Consumers, who would most likely see an increased cost of goods as the companies pass the tax onto them, would receive the tax revenue as a dividend to offset the anticipated increased costs. The town declined to address this at the federal level at this time.

Brown tail moths flourished from spring to fall and Vassalboro was one of the hardest hit towns in Maine. After some consultation with the state, it appeared that the best time to deal with the situation is in the winter and early spring prior to the nests becoming "active".

Our commission has had the pleasure to have Steve Jones, Peggy Horner, Christopher French, David Jenney, Paul Mitnik and Holly Weidner serve on the commission. Chris stepped down when he was elected to the select board in June and Paul came on when he stepped down as Code Enforcement Officer.

We welcome Vassalboro people who have a passion for some aspect of preserving the town's natural resources, to consider applying to the select board to join the Commission.

Food Station Pantry

Cindy Ferland

Executive Director

In 2021, we experienced an unanticipated and unwelcome continuation of pandemic mode operation at the pantry. In the interest of keeping volunteers and clients as safe and healthy as possible, the pantry board members elected to continue drive-up distribution of food to our clients. Boxes are partially filled ahead of time with dry goods and non-perishables; fresh fruits, vegetables, milk, meats and breads are added on distribution day as the recipients drive up. Masked volunteers load the food into the trunks or backs of vehicles while maintaining social distancing.

In addition to the on-going constraints the pandemic has caused, the continuation of supply chain shortages and shipping delays have impacted both the quantity and variety of food donations received from the supermarkets. As a result, the pantry has had to purchase more food than usual from Good Shepherd Food Bank and other sources.

Hunger and food insecurity continues to be a problem for the less fortunate individuals of our community. We are seeing it every day. Many families, the elderly and hardworking people are struggling to make ends meet. They are especially thankful for our help and once their circumstances improve, they in turn are able to help others.

The pantry's mission is to ensure no one in Vassalboro goes hungry. Because of the compassion and generous donations and financial support from so many of you, our volunteers are able to work towards that goal. Thank you all from the VFSP Board of Directors: Cindy and Albert Ferland, Diane Bailey, Mary White and Josi Haskell.

As of Dec. 31, 2021, we had 490 registered people on our client roster which included 71 seniors, 252 adults, and 167 children.

Our sources of assistance include the following percentages: 25% USDA, 50% donations/grants, 25% Hannaford Stores

The Vassalboro Food Pantry, Board Members, and volunteers wish to extend a huge THANK YOU to these generous and loyal supporters of the pantry in 2021:

** Maine State Credit Union-Augusta,**John & Elizabeth Reuthe, **Mid State Machine Foundation, **Cami Denico, **Wayne Bowers,**Dana & Lynn Sumner, **Town of Vassalboro and employees,** 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, J & T 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, Deb Hopkins & Bob, Paul & Barbara Nelson, William & Carolyn Browne, Sally Luce, Susan Tuthill, Lisa Lapointe, Debby Cabaniss, Susan Taylor, David & Ann Souza, Richard Lemieux & family, B & J Welch, Greg & RoseMarie Fortin, Don & Lisa Breton, Priscilla Doel, George Jones, Laura Jones, Marcia Tyrol, Ann E. Rhinehardt-Clark, Barbara & Peggy Horner, Francis & Mary Zmigrodski, Debbie Johnston-Nixon, John & Deb Titus, Kennebec Valley Board of Realtor, 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, Dale McCormick, Susan Brown, Kim & Seth Sweetser, Sarah & John Phillips, Cindy Shorey, Lucille Norstrand-Murphy MD, Dirigo Lodge#104, and the many more thoughtful anonymous donors.



Photos by Cindy Ferland

Pantry Volunteers



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. These lake associations include the China Lake Association, Three Mile Pond Association, and the Webber Pond Association. Additionally, the Town of Vassalboro and the Town of China are represented, along with the interests of the Three-Cornered Pond Owner's Association in Augusta.

The CRLA operates a set of "core programs" that include the Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) Program, the LakeSmart Program, a Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), and a Gravel Road Rehabilitation Program (GRRP).

The CBI staff inspects boats entering and exiting our region's waterbodies on the lookout for invasive aquatic plants like Hydrilla and Milfoil that can easily infest a lake or pond when introduced from another waterbody. The CRLA has had success operating the CBI Program as an essential service to the boaters of Maine as well as visitors to our State. The CBI Program covers four boat launches within the region serving two on China Lake, and others on 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 a labor force of young lake stewards responsible for conducting environmental projects. Most of the YCC's work concentrates on the LakeSmart Program. The LakeSmart Program evaluates shorefront properties and designs vegetated buffers for installation along the shoreline. These buffers help reduce the impact of non-point source pollutants in stormwater before it enters the lake, especially a nutrient called "phosphorus" which is responsible for forming algae blooms.

The LakeSmart Program has been an on-going program on China Lake for many years, and the CRLA plans to expand the program to both Three Mile Pond and Webber Pond in 2022. With interest and support from the Vassalboro Conservation Commission, the CRLA will provide training for new LakeSmart evaluators to conduct shoreline assessments in 2022. Once a robust queue of evaluations is complete, the CRLA will seek funding to cover the YCC's labor costs and for the purchase of plants, erosion control mulch and landscaping materials necessary to install lakeside buffers, and to complete other best management practices (BMP's) to help improve water quality.

To contribute to CRLA's LakeSmart effort for Three Mile Pond and Webber Pond, you can mail your tax-deductible donation

to: China Region Lakes Alliance, P.O. Box 6339, China Village, Maine 04926.

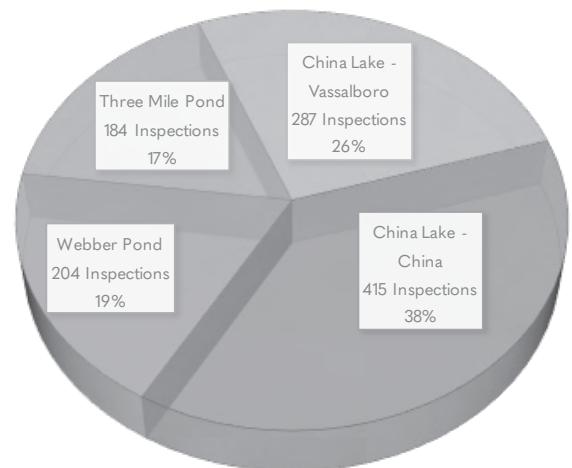
Finally, the Gravel Road Rehabilitation Program (GRRP) is aimed at addressing problems resulting from gravel camp roads around Three Mile Pond and Webber Pond that create stormwater runoff issues and non-point source pollution. In 2022 the CRLA will plan and coordinate a gravel camp road survey around those waterbodies to assess road conditions, and to prepare recommendations for future work to resolve any problems found.

The China Region Lakes Alliance's Mission is to operate its core programs to enhance water quality for Three Mile Pond and Webber Pond, as well as China Lake. CRLA will continue to promote the environmental health of the region's waterbodies, protecting our resources from invasive aquatic plants, installing lakeside buffers, and examining gravel camp roads to improve water quality of the lake resources in our region.

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

WATERBODY	NO. INSPECTIONS
Webber Pond	204
Three Mile Pond	184
China Lake - Vassalboro	287
China Lake - China	415

2021
COURTESY BOAT INSPECTION PROGRAM
INSPECTIONS BY BOAT LAUNCH



*Data collected by the China Region Lakes Alliance (2021)

Historical Society

Jan Clowes

President

The Vassalboro Historical Society (VHS) continues to gather, preserve, and display items from Vassalboro. In 2021 we received a grant from the Oak Grove School Foundation which enabled us to hire a textile conservator. Lynne Bassett was at the museum and directed our many volunteers in boxing, hanging, repairing, and covering hangers to safely care for the clothing. She also identified and labeled clothing that the Society owns and separated them by decade. Some of her favorites (and ours) include a child's dress from circa 1835 and a woman's dress from circa 1860. The board has voted to bring Lynne back in the spring to assess the needs of our men's and children's clothing. We continue the work she assigned us thanks to our volunteers. There is always something to do that fits any skill level. Our summer hours will be starting soon and we are typically open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am-1pm at the museum at 327 Main Street, East Vassalboro. If you have some time to give us, we'd love to keep you busy.



Photo by Jan Clowes

Lynne Bassett, Textile Conservator

We received many wonderful Vassalboro items in 2021, including a bottle that was found in a wall in a North Vassalboro home, portraits of family members from Vassalboro, fire department items, and books from the 1800's owned by the Homans' family from North Vassalboro.



Photo by Jan Clowes

Lisa Weston

Our former curator, Julie Lyon has returned to the Society and has been busy accessioning these items and other items that needed to be accessioned. The process is a lengthy one for each item, whether a piece of paper or a large portrait. The Society also purchased a vintage sign that used to hang at the entrance to Green Valley Campground and an ice cream box that was from Ferris' Market. Lisa Weston and her family found a treasure trove in the walls of her new (old) home. She not only shared with the Society, but she and her family became members.

We had several new members in the following categories; nineteen members over age 65; three members under age 65; two family memberships; and four lifetime members.



Photo by Jan Clowes

Civil War Monument Repair

With the help of the Town of Vassalboro, Fieldstone Gardens, sculptor Andreas von Heune, and the Vassalboro community at large, we were able to make repairs to and rededicate the Civil War Monument in East Vassalboro. What a wonderful opportunity to bring the community together to repair and beautify this wonderful part of our town.

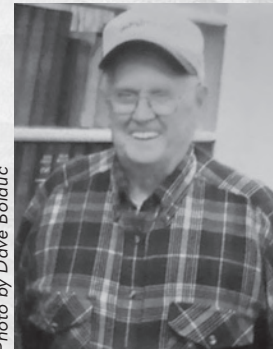


Photo by Dave Bolduc

Roy Brackett

We were saddened by the loss of a long-term VHS volunteer and board member, Roy Brackett. Roy's skills and his dedication to the Society are visible throughout the museum, the Harness Shop, the Blacksmith Shop, and Ina's Barn. He will be missed!

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

- \$12 Active (Under 65)
- \$8 Active (65 and Older)
- \$25 Family
- \$100 Business
- \$150 Lifetime

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

ATTN: Membership Secretary, Vassalboro Historical Society, P.O. Box 13, North Vassalboro, ME 04962.

Celebrating 250 Years of Vassalboro

Erskine Academy

Michael McQuarrie

Headmaster

Dear Residents of Vassalboro,

Erskine Academy hoped that this year's message to all of you would have COVID behind us, or nearly so. As we approach two years now with this pandemic, we are hopeful for the promise of a safer, healthier, and brighter 2022 nonetheless. Although we've yet to defeat the pandemic, it has not beaten us. The last year was challenging as we navigated in-person, hybrid, and fully remote teaching and learning; still, our response to the circumstances and the lessons learned strengthened our resolve to emerge a stronger and better Erskine Academy from this crisis.

Of the odd lessons taught by the pandemic is that change can happen quickly and forcefully. With little notice or time to prepare, every aspect of our educational approach was affected, dramatically changing schooling as we knew it. This traumatic year reminded us of the significance of community and empathy as the glue to keep us together. We met expectations and stressors by reconfiguring our physical space; adhering vigilantly to health and safety measures; investing in protective factors such as PPE, ventilation, and air filtration systems; and retraining and retooling with adaptive technologies and computer software. This is how we were able to return to school then, and this is how we are now able to stay in school one good school day at a time.

In Erskine Academy's 139th year, we continued to be a high school of choice that combines an independent education with the democratic ideal of 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 Corona Virus risks. A few facts about Erskine Academy today attest to our vitality and value:

- With 528 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 100% graduation rate; a 98% four-year graduation rate
- A dropout rate of less than one percent
- Of 120 graduates in 2021, 71% were accepted to higher or continuing education (now a nine-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. This structure provides us with stability, enables us to be nimble in our operation, and expedites problem-solving and decision-

making. At the same time, we focus on essential teaching and learning processes.

Although 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. Our enrollment generally exceeds 60% of the students from our collective eight sending towns.

Regardless of differences in residence, prior learning, interests, abilities, or personal circumstances and backgrounds, all of our students matter and belong. All who attend here experience a school program that blends traditional values with 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 education and, as such, viable pursuits. Therefore, we have created and sustained a comprehensive academic program to reflect and facilitate access to these experiences and four-year degree programs. We are one of the few high schools in the state to continue to offer shop technology, family and consumer economics, culinary arts, and business courses for exposure and entry-level work. Additionally, with 64 students pursuing a certificate in a craft or trade at the **Capital Area Technical Center**, Erskine's enrollment at CATC is second only to its host, Cony High School.

Staffed by three teachers and two educational technicians, Erskine's **t** 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.

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.

Last year, we offered 12 **Advanced Placement** courses, enrolling 152 students; 235 students enrolled across our 13 **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. From 2018 to the present, Erskine Academy students received college credit in a total of 1032 courses and realized substantial savings in college tuition to them and their families.

Erskine Academy

With 27% of our students receiving free and reduced breakfast and lunch, our student body is socioeconomically diverse. We were fortunate this year and last to participate in the Maine Department of Education's **Extended Summer Feeding Program**, which provided all students with tray breakfasts and lunches daily and at no cost to them. However, because our most vulnerable students live and learn in poverty, we continue to operate a school-based clothing and supplies cupboard and the "**Eagles Nest**," an open-access food pantry and backpack program from which students can obtain food for after school and weekends.

Pandemic conditions required our reimagining of favored traditions and activities. With masks, personal hygiene, and distancing in place, we enjoyed Homecoming, Winter Carnival, in-person Senior Week activities (including Baccalaureate, Class Night, and graduation), and the first Lobster Roll to provide financial and moral support for Maine Special Olympics. We also won the first regional competition "**The Cereal Box Domino Challenge**," raising and donating over 3,500 boxes of cereal to our local food pantries.

Other examples of our school community's goodwill are the thousands of hours of community service and substantial fundraising 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 our embrace of volunteerism and stewardship, we engage meaningfully with our communities, and we experience giving back with appreciation and humility.

Since our founding in 1883, Erskine Academy has remained true to its mission while evolving to meet new demands, challenges, and uncertainties. Because there is no limit to what we can do, pursuing excellence and implementing our mission are continuous and unyielding works in progress. Our school accrediting agency affirmed this, The New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. (NEASC), who, in response to our Five-Year Interim Report, stated, "...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."

We have heartfelt gratitude for our alumni and friends who believe strongly enough in our values and results that they give their time, talents, and financial donations. Their investment enables us to invest in programs and enhancements that state-set tuition alone cannot support and raises our expectations 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 legacy that adheres to what we know is right and good for our young people and aids them to construct a strong start for adulthood.

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. Those families who have chosen Erskine Academy—entrusting us with their children's intellectual, social, 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 Academy!



Contributed Photo

Erskine Academy Campus

Transfer Station



George Hamar
Transfer Station Manager

*In 2021
Vassalboro
Residents
disposed of 1546
tons of MSW
and 446 tons of
Bulky waste items
at the transfer
station*

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 2021.

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.

In February, discussions were on the table again with proposed renovations for the transfer station layout including replacing the now aging trash compactor. Engineer Al Hodgson was hired to implement a plan and present it to the Selectmen.

After estimated costs and several meetings on this topic, it was decided to make no changes at the moment to the layout of the transfer station except to replace the compactor.

At another meeting, funds were approved for the purchase of the new compactor. Several Vendors were contacted for pricing and equipment options were given for review.

It was decided that two new 5.5 yard compactors as well as two new 45 yard containers and two roto-phases would be purchased and installed by McGuire Equipment Inc.

Installation of the compactors will begin sometime in the spring of 2022 after repairs to the existing concrete are made that the compactors will be affixed to.

In 2021 Vassalboro Residents disposed of **1546 tons of MSW** and **446 tons of Bulky** waste items at the transfer station

Recycled in 2021

Corrugated cardboard	102.8 tons
Misc. Electronics	15.1 tons
Metals	133 tons
Clothing	3 tons
Tires	1008 total
Waste Oil & Antifreeze	985 gallons
Compost	50 tons
Reusable items (swap shed)	8 tons

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.



Trail Committee

John Melrose

Chairman

The Trails Committee kept up the pace of maintaining and improving the several trails in Town. The greatest portion of our work was concentrated again on the Town Forest Trail which received further improvements including widening trails, replacing rotted bog bridging and laying down bark mulch. The occasional blow downs were removed as needed on all of the trails we support.

In the spring of 2021, more work went into a new 750 foot trail connection located between the recreation ball fields and Bog Road to the east of the Public Works garage. This new section provides improved trail access for residents in East Vassalboro and improves the ITS 85 snowmobile connection to China Lake. Along Bog Road next to the public works garage, there is a new trail parking area installed by the Public Works crew and a short 80 foot link from the parking area to the new trail section. There is also a new information kiosk located at the parking lot that includes a trail map.

The big news of the past year was the Town and the Kennebec Water District reaching an agreement to allow the Trails Committee to extend the Town Forest Trail to the northwest onto the western section of the District's land and along scenic Red Brook. This agreement set the stage for a 1.1 mile trail extension and a doubling of the Town Forest trail network. This project is one of several the Town undertook to

commemorate the 250th anniversary of the incorporation of Vassalboro in 1771 by the Massachusetts General Court. The new trail section is named Red Brook Trail. The alignment of this Trail is now roughed out with temporary flagging in place so hikers can make use of this unfinished trail. The next year will be full with work to complete this trail.

The Committee maintains a page on the Town website where the public can access information on all of the trails in Town along with useful links to other sites like the Kennebec Land Trust and their three trails in Town. The Committee also maintains a Vassalboro Trails Facebook site with 390 members. Committee members serve one year terms and there is no limit on the Committee size. Committee meetings are infrequent since our preference is to spend our time outside improving trails. Committee members include Richard Behr, Meridith Cain, Ryan Douglas, John Melrose, Paul Mitnik, Paul Oxley and Holly Weidner. Michael Poulin is an honorary member who we appreciate for regularly donating his time with his tractor to work on trail improvements. Anyone interested in serving on the Committee or in volunteering time to work on the trails should let any member of our Committee know or contact Town Manager Mary Sabins.



New Trail Kiosk at the trail head, located at the PW Garage on Bog Road



Red Brook

Photos by John Melrose

Library

Brian Stanley
Library Director

The Vassalboro Public Library remains dedicated to being a hub of information and learning for our community. Last year July 2020-June 2021 our doors were open all year so our numbers look similar to other years despite the pandemic. Because we were open, while many surrounding libraries were not, we saw 128 new registered library users, with 43 of those users and families being from surrounding towns. This brings our total number of registered users to 619, which could actually be counted higher since we count children on a single, family account. Our total circulation of books/media/digital books was 9,878. * It was also our first full year utilizing the Cloud library with 232 checkouts of digital books and audio. And our STEM kits were checked out 61 times by local students for at-home learning. In total we saw 4,143 people – children and adults – visit the library last year. These statistics were very encouraging to us because it shows we were being utilized by the community during a very difficult time. We were happy to be open for all library users and to provide important library resources and services.

As far as programming we were limited due to indoor capacity guidelines. However we did partner with the VCS school librarian in the spring to hold a virtual series surrounding the alewife rehabilitation efforts by local townspeople, Maine Rivers, and Fish and Wildlife. In the summer, once state safety restrictions eased, the library strived to offer some interesting programming for children and their families to learn and have fun together. And within our walls we continued to host a place for neighbors and new friends to gather safely, fostering a unifying sense of community. Towards the end of summer we saw many come to support our Book and Bake Sale during Vassalboro Days.

In recent events, we had a library renovation, which was a very important step for us. Previously our bookcases were well beyond the ADA recommended limits of 36" with many as far apart as 48". So in January the library closed for three weeks to move these bookcases, which created more gathering space for programs within the library. We also shifted all the children's picture books and chapter books to the front of the library. This gave families with children much more space to gather and relax. We are already seeing these areas be put to good use. This renovation left us in a much more comfortable position for future programs, so please keep an eye on our monthly events. In addition to Story times and STEAM times we also hope to sponsor Game nights for adults and more monthly children and adult programs.

Please join us in these exciting new steps as we continue to evolve our role within the community to provide a centralized and friendly place to gather. The library itself will continue in its ongoing mission to serve. Speaking on behalf of the

Vassalboro Public Library, we are humbled and grateful for your patronage and encouragement.

Thank you to all the supporters of the library through our Annual Appeal. Your contributions help us continue our services! Thank you to the library Trustees for all your hard work and dedication through a hard year. A very special thank you to Irene Forster, Teri Wadding, Anna Granquist, Susan Kiralis, Lore Ferguson, Kate Pfloding, Matt Huck, Alexis Burbank, Heather Stamler, Judy Getchell, Beth and Olivia Hatch, David Jenney, Cameron Brown, Holly Weidner, Vickie Limberger, Helen LaFleur, Jody & Bernie Welch, Christina Moen, of Kennebec Savings Bank, the Vassalboro Business Association, Fieldstone Gardens, Mary Sabins at the Town Office, Donna Martin at Maine Savings, and Linda and Lauchlin Titus. Also a thank you to Maine Rivers, Ray Breton, Melora Norman, Frank Richards, Barbara Brenessel, Susan Hand Shetterly, and Rebekah Raye.

* A brief note. In last years annual report I made an error in our annual circulation statistics. I listed that number, as being 5000 in total circulation while the actual number was 9500.



Photo by Brian Stanley

STEAM Time Activity



Photo by Brian Stanley

Child with STEM Kit

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 2021. 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) and a School Resource Officer for MSAD 49.

Despite the continued challenges that COVID presents to us, all my entire staff continues with its mission of serving the citizens and visitors of Kennebec County, as well as the safe keeping of incarcerated individuals within our Correctional Facility.

In 2021, Law Enforcement Deputies logged thousands of calls for service. Our calls for service increased to near normal levels that we experienced before the pandemic.

One type of call has increased dramatically: overdoses of prescribed medications or illicit substances. As the problem continues to increase, I wish to make it clear that we at the Sheriff's Office will always support our citizens with substance dependency disorders by providing avenues that can assist with their recovery.

Starting in 2021, a shift in the balance of call taking we had shared with the Maine State Police required my office to expand the Law Enforcement Division by two Deputies. These two positions were filled, which completed the staffing levels agreed to by the Budget Committee.

Our Patrol Division welcomed Deputies Dan Ross, Stephen Gould and Racean Wood as full-time staff on our team. Each of these men bring at least four years of experience as career law enforcement officers. Deputy Ross comes to us from the Gardiner Police Department, Deputy Gould worked with the Livermore Falls Police Department, and Deputy Wood served with the Somerset County Sheriff's Office. We also welcomed Reserve Deputy Nathaniel Sparling to our patrol division as a part-time Deputy.

In December of 2021 our office saw the resignations of Deputy Kulakowski and Deputy Carey. We wish them great success as they transition to new challenges and growing families.

My agency has been receiving federal funds to conduct patrol details specifically related to motor vehicle violations throughout the county. To date, the effort of Kennebec County Deputies in those federally funded programs excel statistically for the number of interdictions for drug related criminal activities.

Our Civil Process Deputies serve legal documents on behalf of attorneys, the courts, citizens, local, and state government, landlords and other entities. In 2021, the three civil deputies received over 7,124 requests for service in Kennebec County. This is an increase from 2020. 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 1,738 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.

My staff at the correctional facility should be very proud of the way they have handled the COVID issue, containing those testing positive with the virus and stopping it from spreading.

Inmates at the Kennebec County Correctional Facility are asked to work and earn time off their sentences if applicable. Inmates who are a risk to the community work inside the facility cleaning and cooking, while others are supervised on outside projects. One may think that this only benefits the county, or our local municipalities, 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 my administrative staff who support the patrol division, detective division, correctional division and the civil deputies. The 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 2022, my focus will remain the same: Serve the people of this county and our visitors honorably and professionally through good common sense and good judgement.

Vassalboro's 250th Birthday!

by Jan Clowes, Historical Society President

When the Town of Vassalborough, Lincoln County in Massachusetts was incorporated by the General Court in Massachusetts in 1771, the banks of the Kennebec River and the area's lakes and streams were home to indigenous people from the Algonquian Community including the Abanaki, Kinaibik (Kennebec), Taconnet, Cushnoc, Norridgewock, and Sagadahoc tribes. Mostly peaceful in this area until Europeans arrived, these tribes thrived on the abundant hunting and fishing in the area. Alewives, shad, salmon, moose, deer, and small game were ample.

Named for William Vassall, father of Florentius Vassall, who became a landowner in the area without ever setting foot here. The Vassal family were Royalists who left America prior to the Revolutionary War, deeding the property to a niece in Nova Scotia who sold the property within a year. Quaker families were the earliest settlers, but others soon arrived, establishing our several villages.

By the time Vassalborough became a town, it was a busy community with both industry such as grist mills and saw mills, a bank, families including Gatchells (Getchells), Farwells, and Browns. The town continued to grow for the next several decades. Newspapers including the Clarion; the Vassalboro' Advertiser and the Vassalboro Times published the news and items of local interest (births, deaths, visits, crimes, and sicknesses). Hotels included the Gibson House in Getchell's Corner and Murray's Hotel in North Vassalboro. By 1850 there were 23 School Districts and 1200 scholars in attendance. In 1851 Vassalborough was written as Vassalboro' in the town reports, which lasted another ten years before being written as Vassalboro. Vassalboro town meetings were held in the same building, the Vassalborough Town House from 1776-1940. The building later became the Mens' Club, then the Kennebec Valley Trail Riders' Snowmobile Club, until a fire claimed it in the late 1970s.

By 1821 the state valuation gave Vassalborough 457 polls and estates of \$208,831.40, the second largest in the county, after Hallowell. The town continued to grow and the population in 1860 was reported to be 3,181. The population declined by the 1870 census and didn't increase again until the 1980s.

Vassalboro's agricultural community was important. Vassalboro had three active Granges, but only Vassalboro Grange #322 remains. In 1860-1877 Warren Percival of Cross Hill Road was listed in the American Shorthorn Head Book as one of the greatest breeders in the United States. John D. Lang and his son Thomas bred shorthorns, Holsteins, and Ayrshires. Hall Burleigh won first prizes and sweepstakes for his cattle. J.S. Hawes bred Herefords; Chandler F. Cobb raised Jerseys at his farm in South Vassalboro. According to the Illustrated History of Kennebec County, his herd consisted of sixty choice, fashionably bred animals. George Cates sold milk from his farm in East Vassalboro.



Many of us still remember getting fresh milk and/or waiting for his cows to cross the road.

Sheep were prominent with the Langs having the best flock of Southdowns, Moses Tabor bought the first Spanish



Photo 1:
George Cate's Barn

Photo 2:
Baker's Saw Mill on Seven Mile Stream



Photo 3:
Horse named "General Knox" owned by Thomas Lang

Photo 4:
Vassalboro Cider Mill, 61 Brann Road, ca 1800's

Merino flock, Warren Percival brought the Cotswold breed to Vassalboro. Some of the best horses were bred in Vassalboro, including General Knox, owned by Thomas Lang. The horse was sold in 1871 for \$10,000 (\$232,554 today). Two new apples were created, the Starkey (by J.W. Starkey) and the Osborn Strawberry Apple (by Charles Osborn). A google search shows that the Starkey is still available but the Osborn Strawberry Apple has been lost. Orchards were owned by the Cook brothers, J.H. Smiley, George Pope, and J.A. Varney & son.

Through the years Vassalboro has had several doctors located in town. Dr. Samuel Cates in East Vassalboro, and later Dr. Zachariah Matthews in North Vassalboro among others. According to Miscellaneous Items of Vassalboro History by Linwood Miller one of the strangest doctors was Leander J. Crooker who was born in 1837. He was twelve when he performed his first surgery, a tooth extraction. At age eighteen he successfully removed a tumor from a patient. When he was twenty-one he "opened an irregular practice" in Vassalboro and practiced for twelve years before getting his medical degree. A year later "he performed an operation for a strangulated hernia under difficulties, after walking several miles through deep snow to the patient's home late at night. He performed the operation by the light of two tallow candles and the assistance of a neighbor without the use of ether for the good reason that he had none with him. The operation was a success."

Transportation changed from steamboats coming up the Kennebec to the railroad. The narrow gauge Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway was chartered in 1854 and ended in 1933. A trolley provided transportation and the Maine Central Railroad provided transportation. Steam boats Lizzie & Joan were active on China Lake. The Lizzie was a work boat and towed logs and equipment. The Joan was owned by Albert Bradley and took passengers from the Revere House around the lake and to Bradley's Island for picnic lunches, bowling, and dancing in the dance hall.



Photo 5:
Trolley in 1907

Photo 6:
Fireman's Field Day Parade, August 10, 1957 on Rt 32

The Vassalboro community has continued to be involved in its churches and meeting houses, schools, and other social gatherings. Many events remain noteworthy and information about them can be found at the Vassalboro Historical Society. The Maine Central Railroad train accident in 1883, military records of those sons and daughters of Vassalboro who served our nation in various wars; school histories, church histories, photographs, clothing, town records, autograph books, newspaper clippings and other items can be found. As we continue toward our future we should revere the past, cherish the present and its artifacts, photographs, and documents. Today's history may only exist in cyberspace and as we look to the future when our grandchildren and greats and so on may ask, "What was Vassalboro like in 2021?" Let's make sure the answers are available.

Information for this article was found in various histories in the Vassalboro Historical Society's collection.



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celebrating
vassalboro
250

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Photo 7:
Wagon ride on Oak Grove Road for 2006 Holiday Celebration.

Recreation Department

Brian Stanley

Recreation Chair & Basketball Commissioner

The recreation committee is happy to say we had a successful year. We continued our major sports – baseball, softball, soccer, basketball - and saw the addition of running club at the Rec fields and trails, which will continue in later years. In the Spring we had many sign-ups for girl's softball and in the coming years we will be joining with Caysa. CAYSA is a youth ASA affiliated softball organization that provides an opportunity for girls from the Central Maine area to learn and play softball. Usually we have enough girls sign up from Vassalboro to form 1-2 teams so they will practice on our home fields. Baseball saw 70 signups for t-ball and farm league and we will continue to play games with Dirigo. However, this coming year Dirigo little league baseball will be run out of Augusta so players of minor and major little league will go there. We have great hopes that this will strengthen the league and benefit our players.

Soccer had a successful season with 76 signups, and a very successful fundraising campaign. Thank you everyone who supported us! Soccer also saw many fun activities at the end of the season at the Rec fields which were a lot of fun. Rec also successfully coordinated with the school to ensure the basketball season could happen this year. We saw 45 kids sign up and benefit from this program with weekly practices and travel games. Thank you to all children and parents for doing so great with the guidelines and wearing your masks!



Recreation Department float in Vassalboro Days Parade 2021.



Rec Soccer Teams

Rec also worked with the school PTO in October to host a Trunk or Treat for area youth. This brought over 150 attendees and was a lot of fun! Our most successful fundraiser of the year was the Color me too Fun Run during Vassalboro Days weekend. This saw 159 signups and was a great day of recreation and health for both young and old in our community.



Photo by Brian Stanley

Color Me Too Fun Run

In the coming years we hope to work further with the Town to manage the fields and ensure our programs can continue. But we need the support and encouragement of the community to do that. It is a lot of work to organize and maintain a Rec Dept especially when it is run by volunteers. We do our best but we need more support from area parents and participants to do better. We always need more coaches for all our sports, so if you have any inclination to help please reach out and we will sign you up. We would also appreciate volunteers to help run and clean the snack shack, maintain the fields, and show up for Field day cleanups at the start and end of the season. We also always need more committee members working behind the scenes to make sure our programs happen. We are sure everyone can agree that Rec activities are an invaluable resource for the community. But we need to come together further to make sure these activities can continue and show our kids that we can keep these programs running for many years to come.

A big thank you to all our sponsors this year! With your help we are able to make sure these programs continue. Many thanks to all our coaches for stepping up this year and supporting our area youth! Many thanks to all volunteers who have stepped forward to assist coaches, help run the snack shack, and showed up for our clean-up days. We appreciate all you do and your continued support.

Recreation Committee Members

Mellissa Olson: Co-chair (spring) & Soccer Commissioner

Becky Jenkins: Co-chair (summer/fall) & Snack Shack Coordinator

Mary Presti: Co-chair (spring), Softball & Cheering Commissioner

Christian Robinson: Baseball Commissioner

John Fortin: Head coach for Baseball, Soccer & Basketball

Kennebec Land Trust

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.

Over the past two years, KLT experienced a marked increase in interest from people who recently discovered our close-to-home lands and 55 miles of trails. As our communities faced physical and mental health challenges associated with the pandemic, we heard many times that nature provided solace.

In 2020 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, Seawards Mills Conservation Area and Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat. These hiking guides continue to be popular with community members and visitors. You can purchase your own copy on our website at tklt.org/merchandise.

As the owner of the properties listed above, KLT also contributes to Vassalboro's local tax base through the open space tax program. We will soon be closing on a 44-acre addition to the Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat that abuts the current property to the north, east and south. Thank you to all of the Vassalboro residents who supported this campaign. KLT staff and volunteers continue to maintain the trails on all of KLT properties and mow the blueberry fields at the Davidson Nature Preserve.

KLT offers a great selection of outings and educational events for the public and we collaborate with schools and other organizations to engage youth and share our conservation programs with the community. In October 2021, Vassalboro residents and visitors enjoyed a Full Moon Hike at the Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat. Please call our office for information about our 2022 field trips and programs. This includes a Maine Entomological Society Field Day on July 23rd at the Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat.

We welcome this opportunity to communicate with Vassalboro residents and the Selectboard about our conservation work. Everyone is welcome to visit our properties and trails and to attend our public programs.

Do not hesitate to contact us for more information at 207-377-2848 or info@tklt.org. You can also visit our website, www.tklt.org for trail maps, directions, and more information about our organization. Thank you to all those in Vassalboro who have chosen to support KLT as members or volunteers.



Janet Sawyer
President



Photo by Tyler Keniston

Mowing blueberry fields at Davidson Nature Preserve



Photo by Marie Ring

Moon Walk

Photo by Howard Lake

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 2021, the Public Works crew prepared the roads to be paved by replacing culverts, ditching, and cutting brush and trees back on the various roads scheduled to be paved. We rented an excavator with a hammer on it, trying to break up the big rock on the side of the Stone Road but had no luck with it. The following lists below are the roads that were paved in the summer of 2021:

- Stone Road – all of it, approximately 1.6 miles.
- Hussey Hill Road – all of it, approximately 1.1 miles.
- Taber Hill Road – from Bog Road Intersection to the Hussey Hill Road intersection approximately 1.2 miles.
- Lombard Dam Road – all of it, approximately .9 miles.
- Cross Hill Road – from the Stone Road intersection up just past Suga's Maple Sugar Store – approximately .3 mile.

The Town received seven bids for paving and had a high of \$97.20/ton to a low of \$67.47/ton. The Town choose to go with the bid from Pike Industries for \$67.47 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. Due to a clause in the contract that if liquid asphalt increased or decreased then the bid price would be adjusted. So, this year the liquid asphalt price increased so it added a \$1.24 more to the bid price per ton of mix, the actual price was \$68.71 per ton.

Paving cost:

Lombard Dam Road – Shim and surface 1107 tons x \$68.71 =	\$76,061.97
Hussey Hill Road – Shim and surface 1353 tons x \$68.71 =	\$ 92,964.63
Taber Hill Road – Shim and surface 1506 tons x \$68.71 =	\$103,477.26
Stone Road – Shim and surface 1994 tons x \$68.71 =	\$137,007.74
Cross Hill Road – Shim and surface 348.5 tons x \$68.71 =	\$23,945.44

Total **\$433,457.04**

As of this writing, the paving plan for the summer of 2022 is to do the following roads:

- Legion Park Road
- Seawards Mills Road
- Cemetery Street

- Hunt Road
- Sherwood Lane
- Dam Road
- Cook Hill Road (section of it just before starting down the hill)

These paving projects will cover approximately 4.9 miles of road. We will prepare these roads for paving by ditching, replacing culverts, and removing brush and trees. We will also be helping out at the Transfer Station with some concrete work so the two new compactors can be installed early this coming spring/summer.

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 roadside mowing was done by our department with a rented tractor and mower. With the price of renting, we were only able to rent it for two weeks. We got around all the roads once and did a second pass on some of the major roads. To do a thorough job, we should have the mower for a month, or purchase one of our own.

To clear up some 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 is responsible for doing all the maintenance work on these roads. We do plow and salt the roads listed above for the MDOT but all other maintenance work is their responsibility.

I would like to thank the Fire Chief Walker and his members for all the help they give us when there are trees down in the roadways.

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 email me at publicworks@vassalboro.net.

Cemetery Committee

Sue Haines

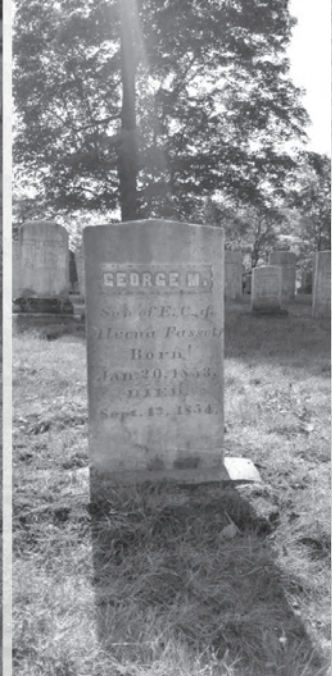
Chair

We were fortunate to have another intern through the Margaret Chase Smith Foundation. She worked hard and was able to finish putting burial information from all the town cemeteries into our data base. This is now searchable through the town website. We welcome comments, corrections, additions, etc. In order to make finding graves easier, at least in the North Vassalboro Cemetery, we are planning to mark the sections with signs, and eventually with a map. We would like to name "roads" in this cemetery as well. The other larger cemeteries have more well defined "rows".

As you can see from the photos, our team of dedicated stone workers has been hard at work, mostly in the Methodist Cemetery, cleaning and, where necessary, fixing stones. We are fortunate to have some knowledgeable and enthusiastic workers.

We try to be on the lookout for trees and limbs down, and welcome reports of issues from passers-by.

We welcome new members to our committee. We meet on the first Monday of the month at 3:30 at the town office.



Photos by Jody Kundreskas

Fire Department



Walker Thompson
Fire Chief

Thank you to all of the members of the Vassalboro Fire Department for making our way through yet another tough year during the Covid-19 Pandemic.



2021 was yet another busy year for the Vassalboro Fire Department. Vassalboro Fire responded to a total of 149 emergency calls. We were faced with a variety of calls such as, structure fires, chimney fires, motor vehicle accidents, mutual aid responses etc. Vassalboro Fire Department currently has 29 members.

On July 28th, 2021 we accepted delivery of our new 2021 Freightliner E-One pumper Engine 15. This new truck replaced the old engine 15 that was a 1981 Custom Cab fire truck that was donated to us approximately 11 years ago from East Fishkill, New York. Some members of Vassalboro Fire Department spent roughly a month of their own time training and completing driving time on the new truck so we could place it into service.

In 2021, we welcomed 3 new members to our department. Hayden Rowe, Gavin Dorr, and Daltyn Quint.



Photo by Walker Thompson

Vassalboro Fire units working a chimney fire on South Stanley Hill Road.

HAYDEN ROWE completed his Firefighter 1 training in 2021 during the pandemic through the Fire Academy in Waterville. He spent several weekends of his own time to complete the class. Hayden becomes the 5th generation of the Rowe Family to serve in a firefighting capacity. His Great Great Grandfather Urban Rowe, was a member of the Augusta Fire Department. His Great Grandfather Urban (Sonny) Rowe Jr. was a founding father of the Riverside Fire Station in Vassalboro. Most recently, his grandfather Eric Rowe retired from being the Fire Chief for 30 years at VFD. Hayden's Father and Uncle, Bennie and Benji Rowe are currently Captains on the Fire Department.

GAVIN DORR moved to Vassalboro and joined the department early on in 2021. Gavin was on Sidney Fire Department prior to moving to Vassalboro. Gavin currently works at the Maine State Prison in Warren and will be attending the next fire academy class to obtain his Firefighter 1 & 2.

DALTYN QUINT lives in Vassalboro with his 2 boys. Daltyn joined the fire department towards the end of 2021 with some firefighting experience from Maine Maritime Academy. Daltyn currently works at Central Maine Power Co. and plans to attend the next Fire Academy to obtain his Firefighter 1&2.

There was a total of 536 burning permits issued online on Wardens Report and a large number of permits issued on the State website. As always, residents can obtain burning permits for FREE online at Wardensreport.com

Last but not least, I would like to take a minute to recognize and thank all of the members of the Vassalboro Fire Department for making our way through yet another tough year during the Covid-19 Pandemic. We only had 3 positive cases among fire department personnel that were isolated and did not affect the rest of our members or operation. I think that is incredible considering we had to keep up with training, responding to calls, meetings etc. These men and women spend several hours throughout the year away from their families to help protect the Town. I can't thank them each enough for everything they do on a day to day basis.

I would also like to thank the Townspeople, Town Officials and Town employees for their continued support to the Vassalboro Fire Department. Without you all, we wouldn't be where we are today.

First Responders

The Vassalboro First Responders continue to remain busy. For the calendar year 2021, we were called 416 times to help render aid to the community. In 2020 we were requested 370 times and 350 times in 2019. That is an 18.9% increase in call volume in just 2 years.

COVID had hit our community hard in 2021 and we saw many sick residents with effects from the virus. However, as I am writing this we appear to be coming to the end of the severe cases. We will still continue to wear our Personal Protective Equipment on calls as it is required by the rules of Maine EMS.

Over the last year, we have funded several people to attend EMT schooling. By the end of summer, we will have sent 6 people to school. We have funding to send 3 additional people later this year, if this is something you would be interested in please reach out to us. It is not the easiest job, but it is the most rewarding.

One of the bigger projects that have been in the background for several years has finally been completed. Through the work of several departments in town, money was secured and a large generator was installed at the community school. It allows the town to now have a large emergency shelter. In working with the school leadership, fire department, and

Daniel E Mayotte

Chief CCEMT-Paramedic

town office, we now have the foundation in place to open up a shelter should the need ever arise.

Your volunteers will continue to respond to your calls for service. Please feel free to reach out to us at vassalborofirstresponders@gmail.com.

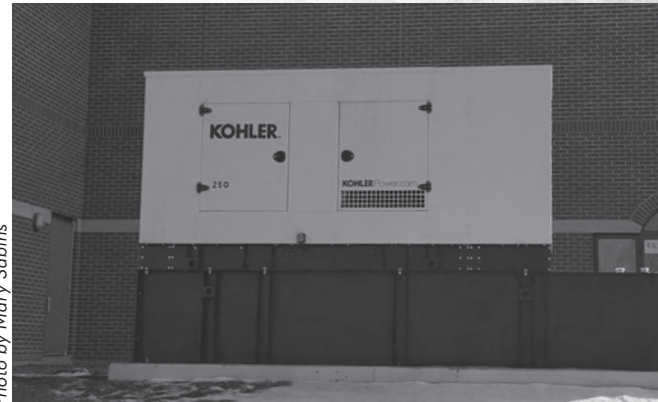


Photo by Mary Sabins

New School Generator

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 still taken aback by the prevailing sale prices in the real estate market in Vassalboro and other Maine Towns that I assess in. Although the stock of properties available are still down, the sale prices in the last year are leaving most assessments of municipalities behind.

You may ask, "How does that affect me? I am not selling my home." All municipalities are under the State Valuation audit, which means annually there is a determination of our ratio of assessments on average to the current market sales. If the market causes our assessments on average to be less than 91%, Assessors are to adjust the Homestead and Veteran exemptions down accordingly. This would mean the likelihood of a small tax increase for those impacted by this change.

On another note, new construction also appears to still be on the uptick as well. For the 2021 tax year, I assessed 8 new residential houses and 9 mobile homes along with many decks and additions. The town had a total valuation of \$ 336,835,200 and I issued a total of 1,196 homestead exemptions. There were also 116 veterans exemptions granted in this last year. There are also residents who have applied and

As always, it has been my pleasure to serve as the Assessor for the Town of Vassalboro.



Ellery G. Bane

C.M.A. Assessor

entered State classified programs such as tree growth, farm land, and open space. All of these programs are applied for locally and can be a help to taxpayers in easing the burdens they face in regards to property tax. Any help that I can offer in explaining any programs and exemptions is encouraged, so please feel free to contact me at the Town of Vassalboro assessing office 872-2826 or on the town's website at ebane@vassalboro.net. As always, I look forward to working with you in the future.

Photo by Lieutenant Kevin Luczko

VFD members performing training on water supply operations in the pit on Cemetery Street.

Superintendent

Al Pfeiffer

Superintendent of Schools

Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher, is quoted as saying, "change is the only constant in life." For more than a year much in our World, Nation, State and Town has been impacted by change throughout our working and daily lives. Although not unsurmountable, these changes have been difficult, and at times it's hard to remember what 'normal' was, or should be, in our day-to-day lives going forward.

The 2021-22 school year began with the pandemic still firmly entrenched in our lives. The Vassalboro Community school for our Pre-K to 8 population stands at 422 students. Several new staff joined VCS. Across our State changeover of staff has become a normal occurrence. We welcomed the following staff: Greg Noyes, middle school math; Nancy Hughes, middle school English language arts; Jennifer Bonnet, remote learning teacher; Carol Kiesman, Director of Curriculum and Delaney Wood as our JMG, (Jobs for Maine Graduates) staff member. Although staffing has been a challenge for all schools, we are fortunate to have hired these well qualified educators to support students and fellow staff.

Our solar collaboration project, which has been on line for a year, has reaped about \$12,000.00 in savings. Hopefully this will help stabilize electricity for the school and town.

Another collaboration with the town was the awarding of federal monies for the school to become a Red Cross warming and cooling shelter in case of an emergency. The installation of a new generator was completed in the Fall Of 2021 and planning meetings with State and Town officials have resulted in the facility now ready to "go active" when necessary.

We continue to receive our regular Federal Title monies to support literacy and math. Additional federal monies, (CARES) have been targeted on several fronts to help maintain and stabilize impacts on public education. Recurring funds were used to ensure all students had the needed technology for remote learning when, and as necessary; increased sanitation

and ventilation; hiring of substitutes to assist the number of absences due to Covid and the necessity for quarantining. Additional funding paid for the remodeling of the old industrial arts area of the building to add classroom spaces.

A special thank you to the Vassalboro School Board for their ongoing work and support to ensure that a quality education and safe learning environment is in place for "ALL" students, staff and community members. Chairman Kevin Levasseur, Jolene Gamage, Jessica Clark, Libby Loiko and Zachary Smith deserve our sincere appreciation for their dedication to the Vassalboro School Community.

A heartfelt thanks for the tremendous continued support from the Town as we work to continually collaborate our efforts to maintain and sustain our thriving school system.

In closing, I am honored to serve and work with so many dedicated individuals at the Vassalboro Community School. I am engaged in worthy and ongoing discussions with committees and other entities in many areas of the Town, on a regular basis.

We will continue to put forth our best efforts on all fronts to provide a strong quality education for all students at the Vassalboro Community School.



Photo by Mary Sabins

L to R – Front Row: Libby Loiko, Jessica Clark, Jolene Gamage. Back row: Superintendent Al Pfeiffer, Zachary Smith, Chairman Kevin Levasseur

celebrating
vassalboro
250

1 7 7 1 - 2 0 2 1

Unpaid Personal Property Taxes

As of 03/08/2022

ACCT	NAME	YEAR	ORIGINAL TAX	PAYMENT/ ADJUSTMENTS	AMOUNT DUE
401 P	BARNETT, LEO E	2020	114.80	0.00	114.80
184 P	BRAGDON, PETER	2020	337.23	0.00	337.23
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
201 P	CAIN & SONS EQUIPMENT	2020	38.74	0.00	38.74
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
390 P	HEAVENLY DELIGHTS	2020	34.44	0.00	34.44
381 P	KELLEY, MICHAEL P	2019	124.80	0.00	124.80
381 P	KELLEY, MICHAEL P	2020	114.80	0.00	114.80
89 P	MANTER, GEORGE W & SUSAN C	2020	77.49	73.52	3.97
314 P	NOLL, ETHAN E	2019	117.00	0.00	117.00
314 P	NOLL, ETHAN E	2020	107.63	0.00	107.63
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
369 P	TIMEPAYMENT CORP	2020	167.90	148.60	19.30
TOTAL FOR 26 BILLS: 10 Accounts			3,086.54	222.12	2,864.42

Unpaid Real Estate Taxes

As of 03/08/2022

ACCT	NAME	YEAR	ORIGINAL TAX	PAYMENT/ ADJUSTMENTS	AMOUNT DUE
71 L	BAILEY, PAULA	2020	1,405.77	0.00	1,405.77
92 L	BATCHELDER, DANIELLE	2020	910.30	0.00	910.30
117 L	BECKWITH, ALEX	2020	946.79	0.00	946.79
163 L	BLUMBERG, SARA (HEIRS OF)	2020	1,809.18	0.00	1,809.18
300 L	BROWN, TIMOTHY MARC	2020	104.60	0.00	104.60
1995 L	BUCKLEY, KIM P	2020	451.58	0.00	451.58
2480 L	BURNS, RICHARD	2020	3,283.78	0.00	3,283.78
1524 L	BUTTERFIELD, LINDA	2020	2,757.67	0.00	2,757.67
1528 L	BUTTERFIELD, LINDA	2020	2,051.18	0.00	2,051.18
1353 L	CAYOUILLE, MICHAEL R	2020	6,897.87	4,777.09	2,120.78

Unpaid Real Estate Taxes

As of 03/08/2022 Continued

ACCT	NAME	YEAR	ORIGINAL TAX	PAYMENT/ ADJUSTMENTS	AMOUNT DUE
1847	L CAYOUCETTE, MICHAEL R	2020	3,057.27	0.00	3,057.27
2804	L CAYOUCETTE, MICHAEL R	2020	591.10	0.00	591.10
1332	L CHARETTE, OLIN C	2020	1,894.27	0.00	1,894.27
402	L CHARETTE, OLIN J	2020	1,794.61	0.00	1,794.61
447	L CONARY, CRAIG D	2019	1,277.85	-39.65	1,317.50
447	L CONARY, CRAIG D	2020	1,293.04	0.00	1,293.04
1145	L COSTON, JAMES G	2020	3,997.79	0.00	3,997.79
548	L D & E REALTY INC	2019	1,186.19	-10.33	1,196.52
548	L D & E REALTY INC	2020	1,204.90	0.00	1,204.90
2869	L DUTTON, DAVID H JR	2020	188.77	0.00	188.77
689	L DUTTON, DAVID JR	2020	324.05	0.00	324.05
3276	L DUTTON, DAVID JR	2020	226.35	0.00	226.35
693	L DYER, DAVID	2020	1,210.93	0.00	1,210.93
339	L EVERETT, WENDY J	2020	3,419.07	0.00	3,419.07
1137	L EWING, PETER	2020	999.96	0.00	999.96
728	L FARRELL, JOHN W	2020	868.15	433.33	434.82
3458	L FROST, EMILY L	2020	1,382.75	0.00	1,382.75
214	L GAULIN, KEVIN B	2020	97.39	0.00	97.39
2777	L GIDNEY, ADAM J	2020	1,423.85	0.00	1,423.85
2099	L GRAY, PATRICIA C	2020	1,485.85	0.00	1,485.85
77	L HARVILLE, THOMAS W	2020	1,859.76	0.00	1,859.76
1820	L HOWARD, KEITH W	2020	1,021.99	0.00	1,021.99
1107	L JENNESS, ROSE	2020	535.05	492.33	42.72
1041	L JONES, GARY D. & MARY L. & JODIE	2020	2,240.58	0.00	2,240.58
1153	L JOSEPH, FRANCIS E, TRUSTEE	2020	1,361.24	0.00	1,361.24
2936	L JURDAK, STEVEN	2020	845.10	0.00	845.10
2429	L KARTMAN, MICHAEL J SR	2020	427.26	59.91	367.35
3341	L KELLEY, MICHAEL P	2020	860.69	0.00	860.69
1350	L KERBY, TODD	2020	72.52	0.00	72.52
3032	L KINRADE, DARCIE	2020	335.56	0.00	335.56
506	L LANGLAIS, CYNTHIA	2020	246.48	0.00	246.48
1643	L LOISEL, TERRY	2020	675.80	0.00	675.80
337	L MARTIN, DIANA L	2020	102.03	0.00	102.03
1545	L MASON, LEVI	2020	801.49	0.00	801.49
2885	L MCCAUSLAND, CRAIG	2020	1,144.74	0.00	1,144.74
2318	L MCKEE, MELISA L	2020	895.26	0.00	895.26
2529	L MCNEIL, WILLIAM	2020	495.42	0.00	495.42
2582	L MOORE, DAN	2020	191.78	0.00	191.78
556	L PASS, MAXWELL J	2020	907.28	0.00	907.28
2523	L PEASLEE, DANIEL	2020	2,392.35	0.00	2,392.35
1735	L POOLER, KIMBERLY A	2020	2,149.88	0.00	2,149.88
252	L R.J.BRETON PROPERTIES, LLC.	2020	2,590.83	0.00	2,590.83
2212	L R.J.BRETON PROPERTIES, LLC.	2020	4,144.58	0.00	4,144.58
2272	L R.J.BRETON PROPERTIES, LLC.	2020	4,290.39	0.00	4,290.39
1950	L ROWE, URBAN JR	2020	990.95	0.00	990.95
3489	L SAGAT-STOVER, SHARON	2020	1,867.75	0.00	1,867.75
1997	L SHIPLEY, EUGENE E SR	2020	786.70	0.00	786.70

Unpaid Real Estate Taxes

As of 03/08/2022 Continued

ACCT	NAME	YEAR	ORIGINAL TAX	PAYMENT/ ADJUSTMENTS	AMOUNT DUE
2059	L SOUVINEY, JAMES P	2020	1,286.09	0.00	1,286.09
2064	L SPAULDING, WILLIAM H	2020	2,173.94	0.00	2,173.94
3253	L STONE ROAD CORPORATION	2020	370.09	0.00	370.09
690	L SUGA, RICHARD	2020	555.55	0.00	555.55
1669	L SUGA, RICHARD J	2020	177.22	0.00	177.22
1670	L SUGA, RICHARD J	2020	177.22	0.00	177.22
2119	L SUGA, RICHARD J	2020	488.38	0.00	488.38
2127	L SUGA, RICHARD J	2020	2,556.72	0.00	2,556.72
2576	L SUGA, RICHARD J	2020	344.58	0.00	344.58
3021	L SUGA, RICHARD J	2020	2,385.35	0.00	2,385.35
2457	L SUGA, RICHARD JOSEPH	2020	841.61	0.00	841.61
187	L SYLVESTER, KEITH	2020	263.42	0.00	263.42
1874	L SYLVESTER, KEITH	2020	297.47	0.00	297.47
1397	L THE OLD MILL PLACE, LLC.	2020	4,643.63	0.00	4,643.63
2172	L THOMPSON, PETER	2020	1,176.82	0.00	1,176.82
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
2088	L TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2020	1,271.05	0.00	1,271.05
243	L WATERHOUSE, JASON M	2020	719.86	0.00	719.86
2313	L WENTWORTH, DAVID JR	2019	607.97	-17.66	625.63
2313	L WENTWORTH, DAVID JR	2020	573.59	0.00	573.59
1866	L WOOD, SHANE	2020	1,013.96	0.00	1,013.96
2382	L WOOD, SHANE	2020	851.62	0.00	851.62
2451	L WOOD, SHANE	2020	851.62	0.00	851.62

Celebrating 250 Years of Vassalboro

35

TOTAL FOR 100 BILLS: 76 Accounts

137,414.99

5,585.19

131,829.80

Annual
Report
2021

Municipal Expenditures

(Year-end report. Pre-audit.) July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

ADMINISTRATION

Appropriation:	\$474,295.00	
Expenditures:	Personnel service	\$363,100.13
	Insurance	9,150.59
	Utilities	6,902.51
	Building/Grounds Maintenance	8,955.85
	Printing/Advertising	7,101.00
	Audit/Legal/Dues	17,918.44
	Office Supplies/Equipment	5,637.84
	Technology/Postage/Other	33,264.11
	Registry of Deeds	5,339.00
	Carry forward into elections exp. FY22	3,200.00
Balance		<u>15,012.32</u>

PUBLIC WORKS

Appropriation:	\$504,856.00	
Carried Forward from FY20:	\$2,500 for laptop	
Expenditures:	Personnel Services	\$272,600.76
	Insurance	17,318.19
	Sand/Salt/other contracts	60,788.91
	Vehicle Expenses/Equip.	72,879.97
	Garage Utilities/Supplies	20,798.76
	Bridges/Culverts/signs	6,787.66
	Carry forward into repair/parts exp. FY22	4,775.00
Balance		<u>51,406.75</u>

SOLID WASTE

Appropriation:	\$331,017.00	
Expenditures:	Personnel Services	\$ 97,009.50
	Insurance	2,020.98
	Bldg. Maintenance/Water Monitoring	7,080.39
	Utilities/Supplies	4,747.30
	Disposal/Hauling/Recycling	216,558.26
	Backhoe Maintenance	5,517.25
	Engineering Services	<u>7,251.13</u>
Balance		<u>9,169.81</u>

ROAD PAVING/GRAVEL ROADS

Appropriation:	\$424,337.00	
Carried forward from FY 20:	+\$24,878.87	
Expenditures:	Paving	\$370,964.67
	Striping	16,552.80
	Gravel Roads/Maintenance	14,903.75
	Carry forward into paving exp. FY22	46,700.00
Balance		<u>94.65</u>

FIRST RESPONDERS

Appropriation:	\$12,750.00	
Expenditures:	Equipment/Radios	3,238.92
	Licensing Fees	250.00
	Malpractice/Work Comp Ins	1,243.78
	Operations/Misc. fees	4,604.85
	Fuel Stipend	<u>1,015.00</u>
Balance		<u>2,397.45</u>

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Appropriation:	\$75,050.00	
Carried forward from FY20 training	\$848.76	
Expenditures:	Utilities	\$10,446.42
	Insurances	10,282.86
	Repairs	17,840.86
	Training/Equipment/Supplies	16,670.00
	Radios	2,033.26
	Bldg. Maintenance	2,486.69
	Firefighter stipend	12,862.74
	Chief Stipend	<u>3,200.00</u>
Balance		<u>75.93</u>

PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE & ANIMAL CONTROL

Appropriation:	\$85,947.00	
Expenditures:	Personnel Services	\$24,038.71
	Insurances	2,466.24
	Supplies/Vehicle Maintenance	5,578.42
	Humane Society	7,334.60
	Public Safety Dispatch fees	<u>41,884.00</u>
Balance		<u>4,645.03</u>

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT/RESERVES

Appropriation and Reserve Use:	\$156,500.00	
Carried forward from FY20 Stand-by Generator	6,500.00	
Carried forward from FY20 Dam House Repair	5,000.00	
Carried forward from FY20 Culvert work	\$25,000.00	
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 upgrade	1,000.00
	Cross Hill Road Culvert project	<u>5,600.00</u>
Balance		<u>-3,501.15</u>

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

Municipal Expenditures

(Year-end report. Pre-audit.) July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

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 #5 of 5) \$ 63,625.00
 Police Cruiser Lease (payment #2 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

Auditors Report

The full audit is available for inspection at the town office.



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Selectboard
Town of Vassalboro
Vassalboro, Maine

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Vassalboro, Maine, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021 and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town of Vassalboro, Maine's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

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

Auditors' Responsibility

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

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

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

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Vassalboro, Maine as of June 30, 2021 and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information and pension and OPEB information on pages 4 through 11 and 77 through 87 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town of Vassalboro, Maine's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Departmental Operations - General Fund, combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements and capital asset schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards and is also not a required part of the basic financial statements.

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

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 6, 2022, on our consideration of the Town of Vassalboro, Maine's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Town of Vassalboro, Maine's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

RHR Smith & Company

Buxton, Maine
April 6, 2022

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Statement C

Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds June 30, 2021

	General Fund	School Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,006,999	\$ 834,942	\$ -	\$ 1,841,941
Investments	1,361,404	-	-	1,361,404
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for uncollectibles):				
Taxes	252,638	-	-	252,638
Liens	106,520	-	-	106,520
Due from other governments	71,537	-	125,846	197,383
Inventory	18,715	-	8,914	27,629
Prepaid items	-	93,033	-	93,033
Due from other funds	-	-	714,845	714,845
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,817,813	\$ 927,975	\$ 849,605	\$ 4,595,393
LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable	\$ 28,157	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,157
Due to other governments	4,705	-	-	4,705
Accrued expenses	22,524	398,639	-	421,163
Accrued compensated absences	64,553	9,994	-	74,547
Due to other funds	487,422	213,909	13,514	714,845
TOTAL LIABILITIES	607,361	622,542	13,514	1,243,417
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES				
Prepaid taxes	9,746	-	-	9,746
Deferred tax revenues	187,675	-	-	187,675
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	197,421	-	-	197,421
FUND BALANCES				
Nonspendable	-	93,033	135,450	228,483
Restricted	-	212,400	352,408	564,808
Committed	27,871	-	283,166	311,037
Assigned	454,014	-	67,474	521,488
Unassigned	1,531,146	-	(2,407)	1,528,739
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	2,013,031	305,433	836,091	3,154,555
TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 2,817,813	\$ 927,975	\$ 849,605	\$ 4,595,393

Statement E

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances Governmental Funds for the Year Ended June 30, 2021

	General Fund	School Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Taxes:				
Property	\$ 4,780,852	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,780,852
Excise	977,653	-	-	977,653
Intergovernmental revenues	878,396	4,121,048	1,639,883	6,639,327
Charges for services	122,045	-	20,968	143,013
State of Maine on-behalf payments	-	384,249	-	384,249
Other revenues	146,058	31,523	55,913	233,494
TOTAL REVENUES	6,905,004	4,536,820	1,716,764	13,158,588
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General government	517,673	-	-	517,673
Public safety	209,870	-	-	209,870
Public works	857,682	-	-	857,682
Culture and recreation	77,145	-	-	77,145
Social services	16,005	-	-	16,005
Education	-	7,611,677	1,550,466	9,162,143
County tax	363,625	-	-	363,625
Solid waste	355,638	-	-	355,638
Other	127,391	-	117,548	244,939
State of Maine on-behalf payments	-	384,249	-	384,249
Debt service:				
Principal	74,605	-	-	74,605
Interest	2,077	-	-	2,077
Capital outlay	205,517	-	-	205,517
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,807,228	7,995,926	1,668,014	12,471,168
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	4,097,776	(3,459,106)	48,750	687,420
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	16,500	3,719,448	197,355	3,933,303
Transfers (out)	(3,916,803)	-	(16,500)	(3,933,303)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	(3,900,303)	3,719,448	180,855	-
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	197,473	260,342	229,605	687,420
FUND BALANCES - JULY 1, RESTATED	1,815,558	45,091	606,486	2,467,135
FUND BALANCES - JUNE 30	\$ 2,013,031	\$ 305,433	\$ 836,091	\$ 3,154,555

Schedule 1

Budgetary Comparison Schedule

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Budgetary Fund Balance, July 1, Restated	\$ 1,815,558	\$ 1,815,558	\$ 1,815,558	\$ -
Resources (Inflows):				
Taxes:				
Property taxes	4,773,674	4,773,674	4,780,852	7,178
Excise taxes	807,000	807,000	977,653	170,653
Intergovernmental revenues:				
State revenue sharing	280,000	280,000	400,481	120,481
Local road assistance	66,000	66,000	62,524	(3,476)
Homestead exemption	300,879	300,879	300,878	(1)
Tree growth	15,750	15,750	15,407	(343)
Veterans exemptions	3,000	3,000	3,174	174
Other	20,767	107,168	95,932	(11,236)
Charges for services	102,750	121,538	122,045	507
Interest income	-	-	69,394	69,394
Interest/fees on taxes	42,000	42,000	42,772	772
Miscellaneous revenue	5,000	91,250	33,892	(57,358)
Transfers from other funds	168,000	218,000	16,500	(201,500)
Amounts Available for Appropriation	<u>8,400,378</u>	<u>8,641,817</u>	<u>8,737,062</u>	<u>95,245</u>
Charges to Appropriations (Outflows):				
General government	520,995	522,282	517,673	4,609
Public safety	206,247	214,402	209,870	4,532
Public works	929,193	956,573	857,682	98,891
Culture and recreation	61,974	90,244	77,145	13,099
Social services	17,942	17,942	16,005	1,937
County tax	363,625	363,625	363,625	-
Solid waste	331,017	331,017	355,638	(24,621)
Debt service:				
Principal	76,725	76,725	74,605	2,120
Interest	-	-	2,077	(2,077)
Capital outlay	156,500	315,016	205,517	109,499
Other	139,799	351,181	127,391	223,790
Transfers to other funds	3,830,803	3,830,803	3,916,803	(86,000)
Total Charges to Appropriations	<u>6,634,820</u>	<u>7,069,810</u>	<u>6,724,031</u>	<u>345,779</u>
Budgetary Fund Balance, June 30	<u>\$ 1,765,558</u>	<u>\$ 1,572,007</u>	<u>\$ 2,013,031</u>	<u>\$ 441,024</u>
Utilization of unassigned fund balance	<u>50,000</u>	<u>243,551</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(243,551)</u>
	<u>\$ 50,000</u>	<u>\$ 243,551</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (243,551)</u>

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Town of Vassalboro, Maine June 6-14, 2022

STATE OF MAINE KENNEBEC COUNTY

To: Mark Brown, a resident of the Town of Vassalboro

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 6th, 2022, at 6:30 in the evening to elect a moderator to preside at said meeting, then and there to act on Articles 1 through 39, 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 14th day of June 2022, then and there to act on Articles numbered 40 to 42. 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 2022:

Frank Richards, Rick Denico, Jr., Doug Phillips, Mike Poulin and Richard Bradstreet

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: 4.00%. Interest will begin to accrue 7 days after the due date.

One-fourth of taxes due on 09-26-22

One-fourth of taxes due on 11-28-22

One-fourth of taxes due on 02-27-23

One-fourth of taxes due on 04-24-23

Select Board Recommends: 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 2022-2023 tax commitment:

Excise Tax	\$ 950,000
Agent Fees	21,000
Snowmobile agent fees	2,750
Boat Excise Tax	7,500
Interest/Penalties	42,000
State Revenue Sharing	550,000
State Road Assistance	67,000

Tree Growth Reimbursement	22,000
Veterans Exemption	2,800
Miscellaneous	5,000
Permit Fees	15,000
Solid Waste/Recycling	40,000
Franchise Fee/Cable Fees	30,000
Clerk Fees	8,000
Fire Truck Reserve	71,991
Surplus	<u>200,000</u>
TOTAL REVENUES:	\$ 2,035,041

Select Board Recommends: \$2,035,041

Budget Committee Recommends: \$2,035,041

ARTICLE 5:

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the fiscal year 2022-2023 budget for the following purposes, or act thereon:

Department	Select Board Recommends	Budget Comm. Recommends
a) Administration	\$577,835	\$577,835
b) Public Works	593,925	593,925
c) Solid Waste	351,690	351,690
d) Road Paving	558,290	558,290
e) First Responders	13,750	13,750
f) Fire Department	85,200	85,200
g) Public Safety	86,416	86,416
h) Recreation	44,327	44,327
i) Library	60,500	60,500
j) Utilities	35,000	35,000
k) Cemeteries	50,430	50,430
l) General Assistance	3,000	3,000
m) Assessment	49,650	49,650
n) Debt Service	<u>71,991</u>	<u>71,991</u>
TOTALS:	\$2,582,004	\$2,582,004

ARTICLE 6:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$282,000 for **Capital Investments/Improvements and Community Beautification** as follows:

Capital Improvement Reserve	\$156,000
Roadside Mowing Equipment	106,000
Streamside Park Development	<u>20,000</u>
TOTAL	\$282,000

Select Board Recommends: \$282,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$282,000

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Town of Vassalboro, Maine June 6-14, 2022

SPECIAL ARTICLES AND TOWN POLICY

ARTICLE 7:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000, and to appropriate up to \$40,000 from funds granted to the Town from the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, to establish a fund to be referred to as the "**Property Cleanup Fund**," to be usable for the following purposes in the discretion of the Board of Selectmen:

1. The demolition or deconstruction of buildings deemed vacant, dangerous or abandoned by the Board of Selectmen or by court order, where the Town is given authority by statute, court order, or agreement with the property owner to enter the property and remedy the violations; or
2. The cleanup or removal of any junk, waste, unregistered vehicles or similar offending materials from a property deemed by a court of law to be an unlicensed junkyard, automobile graveyard or automobile recycling facility, or in violation of any public health or nuisance laws where the Town is given authority by statute, court order, or agreement with the property owner to enter the property and remedy the violations;

The Board of Selectmen shall be authorized to develop rules, agreements, liens or other necessary documents to assist in the administration and use of the fund. Use of the Fund for the authorized purposes shall be subject to all federal rules related to the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund and shall not limit the Town's authority to recover money spent from the fund or the Town's associated costs through assessment of a special tax against the property owner, unless otherwise prohibited by federal rule. If federal funds remain in the Property Cleanup Fund at the close of the fiscal year, they shall first be used to reimburse any expenditures from amounts raised through taxation, and any balance shall carry forward.

Select Board Recommends: Approval

ARTICLE 8:

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 |

Select Board Recommends: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

ARTICLE 9:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board 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.

Select Board Recommends: Approval

ARTICLE 10:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board 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.

Select Board Recommends: Approval

ARTICLE 11:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board 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 \$288,000 to be funded from the following sources:

\$125,000	from Public Works Truck Reserves
\$108,000	from taxation appropriation in FY 2021-22 carried forward
\$ 55,000	from new taxation appropriation in FY 2022-23
\$288,000	Total cost of new truck with plow and sander

Select Board Recommends: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

ARTICLE 12:

Shall Section D of the **Marijuana Business Ordinance** be amended as follows (new language is shown as underlined)?

"An application for licensure of an existing Marijuana Business shall be submitted to the Town within 60 days following the adoption of this Ordinance. License applications shall be submitted and approved prior to the establishment of any new tenancy, ownership or occupancy of an existing Marijuana Business permitted by this Section."

(Note: The current Marijuana Ordinance will remain in effect until amended.)

Select Board Recommends: Approval

ARTICLE 13:

Shall the definition of a Marijuana Cultivation Facility in the **Marijuana Business Ordinance** be amended as follows (new language is shown as underlined; struck-through language will be eliminated)?

"Marijuana Cultivation Facility shall mean a facility used to purchase marijuana plants and seeds from other cultivation

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Town of Vassalboro, Maine June 6-14, 2022

facilities; to cultivate, prepare and package marijuana; to sell marijuana to products manufacturing facilities, stores and other cultivation facilities; and to sell marijuana plants and seeds to other cultivation facilities and immature marijuana plants and seedlings to marijuana stores. It shall not include a facility used for cultivation of marijuana for personal use pursuant to 28-B M.R.S. § 1502, a facility used for cultivation of medical marijuana by a Qualifying Patient pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 2423-A, or an area of less a building or lot containing less than 1,000 square feet of area in the aggregate that is used for cultivation of medical marijuana by a Caregiver or Qualifying Patient one or more Registered Caregivers pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 2423-A. A Marijuana Cultivation Facility license shall be required for the owner or operator of the facility as well as any person who, by lease, partial ownership or other arrangement with the owner/operator, cultivates any amount of marijuana within the Marijuana Cultivation Facility."

(Note: The current Marijuana Ordinance will remain in effect until amended.)

Select Board Recommends: Approval

ARTICLE 14:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to **accept or reject gifts** of labor, goods, use of equipment, and money and to implement those gifts for the donor's intended purpose.

Select Board Recommends: Approval

ARTICLE 15:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board or their designee to accept and to expend funds from the State, Federal, and County Governments related to the **American Rescue Plan Act** 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.

Select Board Recommends: Approval

ARTICLE 16:

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.

Select Board Recommends: Approval

ARTICLE 17:

To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board, for the fiscal year 2022-2023, to **transfer funds** between appropriation accounts to avoid overdrafts so long as the grand total of all appropriations is not exceeded.

Select Board Recommends: Approval

ARTICLE 18:

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 2023 and authorize the Municipal Officers to sell surplus **river herring (alewives)** for one or more years, or take any action relative to the same.

Select Board Recommends: Approval

Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

ARTICLE 19:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the revenues received in FY 2022-23 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 Select Board.

Select Board Recommends: Approval

Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

ARTICLE 20:

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

Select Board Recommends: Approval

Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

ARTICLE 21:

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 Select Board in the event of an emergency and to avoid overdrafts.

Select Board Recommends: Approval

Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

HEALTH AND WELFARE/OUTSIDE AGENCIES

ARTICLE 22:

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the fiscal year 2022-2023 budget for the following purposes, or act thereon:

	Agency Request	Select Board Recommends	Budget Comm. Recommends
a. Vassalboro Food Station	2,000	2,000	2,000

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Town of Vassalboro, Maine June 6-14, 2022

b. Hospice of Waterville	1,600	1,600	1,600
c. Family Violence Project	2,500	2,500	2,500
d. Spectrum Generations	1,100	1,100	1,100
e. Sexual Assault Crisis	1,519	1,519	1,519
f. Snowmobile Club	1,500	1,500	1,500
g. Historical Society	2,500	2,500	2,500
h. China Reg. Lakes Alliance	11,500	9,000	9,000
TOTALS:	\$24,219	\$21,719	\$21,719

MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS AND REQUESTS

ARTICLE 23:

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 \$411,433).

Select Board Recommends: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

ARTICLE 24:

To see if the Town will vote to increase the **property tax levy limit** of \$545,694.67 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 25:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$4,652,873.48 for **Regular Instruction**.

School Committee Recommends: \$4,652,873.48
Budget Committee Recommends: \$4,652,873.48

ARTICLE 26:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$1,805,017.16 for **Special Education**.

School Committee Recommends: \$1,805,017.16
Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,805,017.16

ARTICLE 27:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$12,111.75 or **Career and Technical Education**.

School Committee Recommends: \$12,111.75
Budget Committee Recommends: \$12,111.75

ARTICLE 28:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$54,223.50 for **Other Instruction**.

School Committee Recommends: \$54,223.50
Budget Committee Recommends: \$54,223.50

ARTICLE 29:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$425,400.28 for **Student and Staff Support**.

School Committee Recommends: \$425,400.28
Budget Committee Recommends: \$425,400.28

ARTICLE 30:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$203,302.89 for **System Administration**.

School Committee Recommends: \$203,302.89
Budget Committee Recommends: \$203,302.89

ARTICLE 31:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$380,689.71 for **School Administration**.

School Committee Recommends: \$380,689.71
Budget Committee Recommends: \$380,689.71

ARTICLE 32:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$596,834.15 for **Transportation and Buses**.

School Committee Recommends: \$596,834.15
Budget Committee Recommends: \$596,834.15

ARTICLE 33:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$561,723.37 for **Facilities Maintenance**.

School Committee Recommends: \$561,723.37
Budget Committee Recommends: \$561,723.37

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Town of Vassalboro, Maine June 6-14, 2022

ARTICLE 34:

To see what sum the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$.00 for **Debt Service and Other Commitments**.

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

ARTICLE 35:

To see what sum the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$30,000.00 for **All Other Expenditures**.

School Committee Recommends: \$30,000.00
Budget Committee Recommends: \$30,000.00

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

ARTICLE 36:

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 \$7,266,850.40) 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 \$2,410,095.00
School Committee Recommendation: \$2,410,095.00
Budget Committee Recommendation: \$2,410,095.00

"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 37:

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: \$1,313,915.00 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services model by \$1,313,915.00: costs for special education, salaries and benefits, and tuition.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,313,915.00

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 38

To see what sum the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 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: \$8,722,176.29
Budget Committee Recommends: \$8,722,176.29

ARTICLE 39:

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 14th, 2022 at the Vassalboro Town Office. Absentee ballots will be processed starting at 9:00 a.m. on June 14, 2022.

ARTICLE 40:

Do you favor approving the Vassalboro Community School's budget for the upcoming school year that was adopted at the June 6, 2022 Annual Town Meeting?

ARTICLE 41:

Straw poll question: Would you favor town officials drafting a Solar Ordinance for eventual voter approval that would regulate where and how many solar arrays could be constructed in town, and also provide rules about decommissioning the arrays after their useful life? This is a non-binding vote.

ARTICLE 42:

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

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Town of Vassalboro, Maine June 6-14, 2022

GIVEN UNTO OUR HANDS THIS ____ DAY OF _____ 2022, AD

Robert C. Browne, Jr., Chair of the Select Board

Barbara Redmond, Selectperson

Christopher French, Selectperson

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 proposed amendments to the "Town of Vassalboro Marijuana Business Ordinance" at 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 _____, 2022 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 _____, 2022.

Mark Brown, Resident
Town of Vassalboro



Variance in Proposed Budget

ACCOUNT	CURRENT YEAR 2021-2022	SELECTMEN'S PROPOSED BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE	
TOWN BUDGET:					
ADMINISTRATION	\$492,706.00	\$577,835.00	\$85,129.00	17.28%	
PUBLIC WORKS	\$524,417.00	593,925.00	69,508.00	13.25%	
SOLID WASTE	\$338,941.00	351,690.00	12,749.00	3.76%	
PAVING/MAINTENANCE PROGRAM	\$517,748.00	558,290.00	40,542.00	7.83%	
FIRST RESPONDERS	\$13,500.00	13,750.00	250.00	1.85%	
FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$75,150.00	85,200.00	10,050.00	13.37%	
PUBLIC SAFETY	\$82,371.00	86,416.00	4,045.00	4.91%	
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT/RESERVES	\$401,500.00	362,000.00	-39,500.00	-9.84%	
RECREATION	\$19,615.00	44,327.00	24,712.00	125.99%	
LIBRARY	\$35,000.00	60,500.00	25,500.00	72.86%	
UTILITIES	\$33,500.00	35,000.00	1,500.00	4.48%	
CEMETERIES	\$30,125.00	50,430.00	20,305.00	67.40%	
GENERAL ASSISTANCE	\$3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00%	
ASSESSMENT COSTS	\$48,400.00	49,650.00	1,250.00	2.58%	
SOCIAL SERVICES	\$12,119.00	8,719.00	-3,400.00	-28.06%	
MISCELLANEOUS REQ.	\$11,898.00	13,000.00	1,102.00	9.26%	
DEBT SERVICE (Fire Truck Lease)	\$13,100.00	71,991.00	58,891.00	449.55%	
TOTAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET	2,653,090.00	2,965,723.00	312,633.00	11.78%	
REVENUE BUDGET:					
GENERAL REVENUES	1,490,250.00	1,835,041.00	344,791.00	23.14%	
SURPLUS	310,000.00	200,000.00	-110,000.00	-35.48%	
HOMESTEAD AND BETE REIMB (est.)	306,311.95	315,000.00	8,688.05	2.84%	
TOTAL REVENUES	2,106,561.95	2,350,041.00	243,479.05	11.56%	
TAX LEVY REQUIREMENT - TOWN BUDGET					
MIL RATE MUNICIPAL	1.62	1.82	0.19	11.99%	
COUNTY TAX:					
COUNTY TAX MIL RATE	1.13	1.21	0.09	7.81%	
SCHOOL BUDGET:					
REGULAR INSTRUCTION	4,571,052.97	4,652,873.48	81,820.51	1.79%	
SPECIAL EDUCATION	1,714,623.18	1,805,017.16	90,393.98	5.27%	
CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION	5,600.00	12,111.75	6,511.75	116.28%	
OTHER INSTRUCTION	55,119.65	54,223.50	-896.15	-1.63%	
STUDENT & STAFF SUPPORT	307,882.99	425,400.28	117,517.29	38.17%	
SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION	175,015.49	203,302.89	28,287.40	16.16%	
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION	374,470.46	380,689.71	6,219.25	1.66%	
TRANSPORTATION & BUSES	558,598.16	596,834.15	38,235.99	6.84%	
FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	511,246.82	561,723.37	50,476.55	9.87%	
DEBT SERVICE & OTHER COMMITMENTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	
ALL OTHER EXPENDITURES	40,000.00	30,000.00	-10,000.00	-25.00%	
TOTAL SCHOOL BUDGET	8,313,609.72	8,722,176.29	408,566.57	4.91%	
TAX LEVY REQUIREMENT - SCHOOL BUDGET					
SCHOOL MIL RATE	11.29	10.99	-0.29	-2.61%	
OVERLAY (estimated)	39,730.76	45,000.00	5,269.24	13.26%	
Overlay mil rate	0.12	0.13	0.01	12.59%	
TIF DISTRICT	110,478.06	110,500.00	21.94	0.02%	
TIF mil rate	0.33	0.33	0.00	-0.57%	
COMBINED TAX LEVY REQUIREMENTS	4,877,228.98	4,906,625.00	29,396.02	0.60%	
ESTIMATED COMBINED NET MIL RATE	14.48	14.48	0.00	0.01%	
VALUATIONS (estimated as of 2/2/22)	336,825,200.00	338,825,200.00	2,000,000.00	0.59%	
BUDGET TOTALS GROSS AMOUNTS					
COUNTY TAX	379,363.32	411,433.00	32,069.68	8.45%	5.67%
MUNICIPAL BUDGET	2,653,090.00	2,965,723.00	312,633.00	11.78%	40.87%
SCHOOL BUDGET - local portion raised	3,801,128.79	3,724,010.00	-77,118.79	-2.03%	51.32%
OVERLAY	39,730.76	45,000.00	5,269.24	13.26%	0.62%
TIF DISTRICT	110,478.06	110,500.00	21.94	0.02%	1.52%
TOTAL ASSESSMENTS FOR TAX COMMITMENT	\$6,983,790.93	\$7,256,666.00	\$272,875.07	3.910%	100%

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.net

Photo by Bernie Welch

250th Anniversary Commemoration: Monument Park Rededication event held April 26, 2021

celebrating

250

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vassalboro.net