

Postal Regulatory Commission
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

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October 22, 2011

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Office of the Secretary
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION

RE: Appeal to stop the closure of the East Vassalboro Post Office. Docket # 1361881-04935

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the customers and residents of East Vassalboro, protest and are appealing the decision to close our Post Office, and we urge the Postal Regulatory Commission to review the record, revise the Postal Service's determination and return the matter for further consideration.

We believe the Postal Service did not consider certain factors that it is required to such as; the time and place of the community meeting, the effect the closure would have on the community, and the requirement that the Postal Service provide a maximum degree of effective and regular services to rural areas and communities where Post Offices are not self-sustaining. Additionally, the Postal Service did not consider the possibility of a contractor-operated retail facility. That might meet the needs of the community if the closure proceeds.

We feel that, as citizens of the United States, we are entitled to the same efficient postal service provided to our counterparts in urban areas. The Postal Regulatory Act is explicit in pointing this out. We petition you, as members of the Postal Regulatory Commission, to consider our appeal and direct the Postal Service to keep meeting our service needs.

Respectfully,

Save Our Post Office Committee

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Date of Posting: 10/05/2011



Date of Removal: 11/06/2011

FINAL DETERMINATION TO CLOSE
THE EAST VASSALBORO, ME POST OFFICE
AND CONTINUE TO PROVIDE
SERVICE BY RURAL ROUTE SERVICE

DOCKET NUMBER 1361881 - 04935

I. RESPONSIVENESS TO COMMUNITY POSTAL NEEDS

The Postal Service is issuing the final determination to close the East Vassalboro, ME Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by rural route service under the administrative responsibility of the North Vassalboro Post Office, located two miles away.

The postmaster position became vacant when the postmaster retired on October 01, 1992. Since the postmaster vacancy an OIC has been installed to operate the office. Postmaster level and office service hours are determined by a workload analysis which includes the number of deliveries and revenue.

The office was studied for possible closing or consolidation due to the following reasons: This is a management initiated study to determine if regular and effective service can be provided through alternate means.

The East Vassalboro Post Office, an EAS-55 level, provides service from 07:00 to 11:00 and 13:00 to 16:30 Monday - Friday, 07:30 to 11:15 Saturday and lobby hours of 07:00 to 11:00 and 13:00 to 16:45 on Monday - Friday and 07:30 to 11:15 on Saturday to 74 post office box or general delivery customers and no delivery customers. Retail services included the sale of stamps, stamped paper, and money orders; special services such as Registered Mail, Certified Mail, Insured Mail, COD Mail, and Express Mail services; and the acceptance and dispatch of all classes of mail.

The retail window averaged 18 transaction(s) accounting for 17 minute(s) of retail workload daily. With minimal workload, the Postal Service feels that effective and regular service will be provided by rural route service. Office receipts for the last 3 years were: \$24,461 (64 revenue units) in FY 2008; \$22,668 (59 revenue units) in FY 2009; and \$22,457 (59 revenue units) in FY 2010. There were no permit mailer(s) or postage meter customer(s).

On May 26, 2011, representatives from the Postal Service were available at the Vassalboro Town Hall Conference Room to answer questions and provide information to customers. 9 customer(s) attended the meeting.

On April 26, 2011, 175 questionnaires were distributed to delivery customers of the East Vassalboro Post Office. Questionnaires were also available over the counter for retail customers at the East Vassalboro Post Office. 85 questionnaires were returned. Responses regarding the proposed alternate service were as follows: 12 favorable, 28 unfavorable, and 45 expressed no opinion.

One congressional inquiry was received on July 15, 2011.

A petition supporting the retention of the East Vassalboro Post Office was received on June 30, 2011, with 224 signatures.

When this final determination is implemented, delivery and retail services will be provided by the North Vassalboro Post Office, an EAS-16 level office. Window service hours at the North Vassalboro Post Office are from 08:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 16:45, Monday through Friday, and 08:00 to 11:45 on Saturday. There are 169 post office boxes available.

The proposal to close the East Vassalboro Post Office was posted with an invitation for comment at the East Vassalboro Post Office and North Vassalboro Post Office from June 14, 2011 to August 15, 2011. The following additional concerns were received during the proposal posting period:

1. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern about package delivery and pickup

Response: The customer expressed a concern about package delivery and pickup. Rural carriers will deliver packages that fit in your rural mail box, if the package does not fit in the mail box, the carrier will deliver the package up to ½ mile off of the line of travel, at a designated place, such as on your porch or under a carport.
2. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern about the loss of the community bulletin board at the PostOffice.

Response: The customer expressed a concern for the loss of the community gathering place. Residents may continue to meet informally, socialize, and share information at the local store, church, and residences in town.
3. **Concern:** Customers expressed a concern about leaving money in the mailbox

Response: The customer also expressed a concern about leaving money in the mailbox. A questionnaire was sent to the postal inspection service concerning mail theft and vandalism in the suspended Post Office area. Their records indicate that there has not been any report of mail theft or vandalism in the area. However, customers may place a note in their mailboxes instructing the carrier to sound their horn when they arrive, in order to transact financial business.
4. **Concern:** Customers expressed concern about having to erect a rural mailbox