



NEW PORTLANDER



INFORMATION IS THE CURRENCY OF DEMOCRACY — THOMAS JEFFERSON

PUBLICATION VOLUME 19 NUMBER 5

Visit the Town of New Portland's web page at newportlandmaine.org

NOVEMBER 1, 2012

E-mail for town business: info@newportlandmaine.org | *The Town of New Portland is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.*

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

PHONE: 628-4441

FAX: 628-4440

The Town Office hours are as follows:

Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett - Ext. 1

Deputy Town Manager: Kristen Seeley - Ext. 0

Tax collecting, registrations, hunting & fishing licenses

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday..... 11am - 5pm
Thursday 2pm - 7pm
1st Sat. of ea. month (except holiday weekends) 8am - 12pm

Town Clerk: Alicia Wills - Ext. 2

Deputy Town Clerk: Annette Folco - Ext. 2

Vital statistics & dog licensing

Tuesday & Wednesday 12pm - 2pm
Thursday 3pm - 7pm
1st Sat. of ea. month (except holiday weekends) 8am - 11am

CEO: Robert Dunphy - Ext. 5

1st and 3rd Tuesday 1pm - 3pm

Assessor's Agent: Terri Lamontagne - Ext. 3

Every other Monday 10am - 2pm
(or call to schedule a meeting)

Fire Department: Chief Kip Poulin - Ext. 4

Email for Town Manager nwprtInd@tds.net

Remember...

- **Selectmen's Meeting**
1st Tuesday & 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm
- **New Portland Fire Department Meeting**
2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm
- **NP Community Library Hours:**
Mon, Wed, Thurs..... 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - noon
- **Library Board of Trustees Meeting**
2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm
- **Planning Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm
- **New Portland Water District**
2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm
- **School Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm
- **Wire Bridge Thrift Shop** open every Saturday
- **Knitwits & Happy Hookers (NPCL)**
2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at 10:00 am

New Portlander deadline is Nov. 25 by 4:00 pm.

Any articles, submissions, information for publication should be received by:

Dallas Landry • PO Box 34, North New Portland, ME 04961
phone 628-4201 • email: bigd@tdstelme.net

If there are any questions or needs regarding the receiving of the *New Portlander*, those inquiries should be directed to the Town Manager.

Selectmen

The selectmen met at 8:00 am on October 25 to have a work session on assessments. One item on the agenda was to review all of the tree growth properties which are on waterfront and to make sure that if they were being taxed as waterfront that the waterfront acreage was the portion of the property not in tree growth according to the management plan. This review resulted in five abatements in addition to the two which were reviewed and granted at a previous meeting. Another item on the agenda was to discuss the concerns expressed by citizens that Lemon Steam and Gilman Stream should not have the same waterfront values as the ponds and the river. We did discuss this and came to the decision that for tax 2012 we are not going to make any changes. The contractor hired to perform the revaluation with Terri's help used the best data which they had available to them and acted in good faith to set these values. The board will review again prior to committing taxes for 2013 and see if it needs any fine tuning.

We also analyzed the changes in assessments and taxes and wanted to share some of the statistical information with you. There have been a lot of numbers being thrown out there that have not been exactly accurate, and we want you to have the facts. Of the 1146 tax accounts there were 736 bills that decreased from 2011 to 2012. There were 384 that increased and 26 that stayed the same. The 26 that did not change are tax-exempt properties. Again, of the 1146, there were 182 whose land value decreased in 2012, 267 that increased and 697 stayed the same. With regard to building values there were 213 accounts that went down, 388 accounts that went up and 545 that stayed the same as 2011.

At the town meeting on March 5, 2011, it was voted that if compensation for town officials was going to go over and above what was approved at the annual town meeting that it would require approval of both the budget committee and a special town meeting. We will be requesting a meeting of the budget committee and scheduling a special town meeting for approval of additional funds to compensate Terri, our assessor's agent, for additional hours worked over her scheduled 20 hours per week as a result of the re-evaluation. At the time of the newsletter deadline, dates had not been set for these meetings so please look for postings both on the website and at the customary places around town.

Submitted: Andrea Reichert

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2012

Selectmen Present: Andrea Reichert, Wayne Rundlett, Douglas Archer

Present: Stacie Rundlett, Brian Rundlett, Edward Boyer, Duane Ricker, Robert Dunphy, Terri Lamontagne, Judith Wills, Marilyn Gorman, Joan and Kevin Cashell, Iola and Ken Ellquist, Linda Weston, Jack Bailey, Dale Walker, Gloria Walker, Loren Parker, Rebecca Parker, B.J. Bangs, Mary Carter, James Carter, Mark Chingock, Susan Luce, Rose Hendrix, Theresa Handrahan, Janice Whitney, Ken Whitney, Steven Pease, John Levecque, Donald Browne, Jamie Eck, Tom Dexter, Janet White, Roger White, Marcia Siebenmann, Joye Earle, Polly and Rob Macmichael, Floyd Cook, Allan Medici, Greg and Olive Dulac, Diana Savage, Clyde Dyar, Keith Morrison, Muriel Handrahan, Ray Poulin, Earlin and Sheila Hoyt, Debra Clague, Russell Morey, Anna Marie Medici, Roxanne Archer, Gabe Clark, Michael Young, Paula Young, Rick Poulin, Kendall Knowles, John Vetne, Lori Brann, Donald Brann, Mary Butler, Alfred Bolduc, Mike Malesky, Tom Kannally, Ron Demers-Lindner, John Demers-Lindner, Geofferey Shovelton

Doug called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

Minutes were reviewed and approved from the September 4, 2012 selectmen's meeting.

Doug moved to the items by the public, which was the informational meeting. A presentation was given by Clyde Dyar to the public. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the increase in waterfront evaluations. There were many questions presented to Mr. Dyar and the Board of Selectmen. No decisions were made.

Selectmen reviewed and signed the A/P and payroll warrants. Selectmen to sign Emergency Management papers.

Doug adjourned the meeting at 9:01 pm. All agreed.

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING FOR OCTOBER 2, 2012

Selectmen Present: Douglas Archer, Wayne Rundlett, Andrea Reichert; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Brian Rundlett, Ed Boyer, Kip Poulin, Gary Agren, Marilyn Gorman, Terri Lamontagne, Danielle White, Peter Virgin, Donald Browne, Joye Earle, Dale Walker, Gloria Walker, Loren Parker, Thomas Dexter, Dr. P, Gilbert Taylor, Becky Taylor

Doug called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Andrea motioned to approve the minutes with a few grammar changes from September 17, 2012. Doug seconded. All were in favor.

Gilbert Taylor and the Board of Selectmen signed the snowplow contract.

Gary updated the Board on the grader and some work that had been done on some of the roads.

Kip updated the Board that the radios have to be changed by approximately January 20, 2013. Kip has found seven radios that are \$365.00 each.

Peter Virgin updated the Board that CMP does not have any permits to have the Smart Meters and the repeaters up. There was an email that was read from a representative at CMP stating that they were getting three permit fees as well. Peter updated the Board that he was selling his land and house here in New Portland, which therefore makes him ineligible to be a Planning Board member. Peter offered to stay on the Board until the town could fill his position as a consultant for a small fee. No decision had been reached.

Terri updated the Board about properties in tree growth that have water front evaluations. Terri needs to review each property management plan to determine whether land owners were billed correctly or not.

The following are the abatement requests that were reviewed: Carl White \$1,806.00/ Andrea motioned to approve. Doug seconded. All were in favor. Douglas Archer \$572.40/ Andrea motioned to approve. Doug seconded. All were in favor. Susquehanna Commercial Finance, Inc. \$116.07/ Andrea motioned to approve. Doug seconded. All were in favor. Peter Virgin \$137.38/ Andrea motioned to approve. Doug seconded. All were in favor. Rosalie Arienti \$2,758.65/ Andrea motioned to approve. Doug seconded. All were in favor. Bruce and Deborah Agren \$477.00/ Andrea motioned to approved. Wayne seconded. All were in favor. Melvin and Judith Durland \$178.08/ Andrea motioned to approve. Wayne seconded. All were in favor. Robert Harrington \$159.00/ Andrea motioned to approve. Doug seconded. All were in favor. John F. Tocio \$408.63/ Andrea motioned to approve. Wayne seconded. All were in favor. John Levecque \$758.43/ Andrea motioned to approve. Wayne seconded. All were in favor. Patricia M. White \$487.96/ Andrea motioned to approve. Wayne seconded. All were in favor. Dale and Gloria Walker \$572.40/ Andrea motioned to approve. Wayne seconded. All were in favor. Donald Browne/ Andrea motioned to table. Doug seconded. All were in favor. Joye Earle/ Andrea motioned to deny. Doug seconded. All were in favor. Joseph and Sara Faline/ Andrea motioned to deny. Wayne seconded. All were in favor. Austin Luce/ Andrea motioned to deny. Doug seconded. All were in favor. Elmira Harrington and Loren Parker/ Andrea motioned to deny. Doug seconded. All were in favor. David Bubier/ Andrea motioned to table. Doug seconded. All were in favor. Thomas Dexter/ Andrea motioned to table. Doug seconded. All were in favor. Alfred Bolduc/ Andrea motioned to table. Doug seconded. All were in favor.

Andrea motioned to adjourn at 8:52 pm. Doug seconded and all were in favor.

These minutes are draft summaries that were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the October 15, 2012 meeting with changes.
KMS

Town Manager

We have had a recent loss of town street signs throughout the whole town. I would like to encourage townspeople to keep an eye open for people who may be removing street signs. It is a great expense for the town to continue to replace missing street signs as well as an issue for emergency personnel who may need to find homes, and without street signs it may take longer for them to reach the location for which they are looking. Please help us to discourage this regular occurrence in our town.

Municipal officials are pleased to announce that the Town of New Portland has received a \$969 dividend check from the Maine Municipal Association as a result of its good loss experience and loss prevention programs.

The Maine Municipal Association offers three self-funded pools for municipal and quasi-public entities in Maine: The Workers Compensation Fund founded in 1978, the Property and Casualty Pool founded in 1987 and the Unemployment Compensation Fund formed in 1978.

The programs are overseen by governing boards of elected or appointed municipal officials. Each year the boards review the program's loss experience to determine if dividends may be paid. Patricia Kablitz, Director of Risk Management for MMA, said more than 80% of the program participants received a dividend for good risk management practices and loss experience.

This year the Workers Compensation Fund has distributed almost \$600,000 in dividends to participants and the Property Casualty Pool has paid dividends of \$550,000 for total payments of \$1.1 million provided directly to MMA members.

Since 1997, the three programs have returned over \$14 million in dividends to participating members. For more information about any MMA Risk Management Services programs, including online programs and other services, check the offerings on their website, www.menum.org, and click on the Risk Managements link or call 1-800-590-5583.

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

Town Clerk

Greetings New Portlanders!

Is everybody ready for the November 6 Presidential Election? Boy, I know I am! If you have not registered to vote and would like to do so, please stop by the town office to register. You can also register to vote on voting day if you choose and please keep in mind for NEW voting registrations we will need to see photo id and proof of residency. If you

come in when my office is closed, I have left registration cards with the ladies up front, and they will see to it that it gets put into my box, and I will enter you into the CVR system as soon as I come in. I have posted sample ballots and Notice Of Election Location/Times here at the office, the library, the post office and Tindall's Store. Have a great month and hope to see you all on voting day!

November 6 Presidential Election

Poll Hours: 8:00 am – 8:00 pm

Poll Location: New Portland Fire Station Community Room
911 River Road, New Portland

Respectfully...

Submitted: Alicia Wills, Town Clerk

Recreation Committee

MINUTES FOR THE RECREATION MEETING OCTOBER 17, 2012

Members present: Stacy Rundlett, Jessi Campbell and Judi Wills

Discussion was held on the plans for the upcoming "Fall Festival." Signs will be put up at West's Construction on Route 27 and on the lawn in front of the Fire Station. The event and the activities were posted on Facebook and had been put into the *New Portlander* October issue. We discussed the confirmation of Mr. Kendrick Charles bringing his horse and wagon for rides during the entire event. The rides are free to everyone and will start at noontime and go until 4:00 pm. The firemen have stated they would like to set up their booth and provide food for the event. They raised money to support this activity and did not use money from their department budget. The food will be free to all who attend. A bounce house has been reserved. It will be set up on Saturday morning, outside if weather is good and in the fire station if it rains.

Entries have been coming in for the scarecrow contest. An area in front of the Community Room was chosen for placement of the entries. Rules have been posted and the judging form has been composed. Three people have agreed to be judges for this event. Pumpkins will be purchased for painting by the children and each child will take their pumpkin home. A decision to have a donut hanging for an eating contest was made and added to the list of activities. We will also hold a pumpkin seed spitting contest, which will be for the longest distance. Discussion on what the winners of the contest would receive for recognition was held and decisions were made.

The final rules for the apple pie contest were made. All pies had to be at the Community Room by noon and judging would be done at 12:30 pm. The judging form was viewed and ideas were made on what the judging would cover. We had three people accept to judge this competition.

Shelby Newell asked to be able to do a slide show of all the activities that have been held at the library over the past year. We felt it would be an excellent display for our event.

Plans were reviewed for the community caroling and dinner. This is always the first Sunday in December. This year it will be held on December 2. This year we will have Mr. Charles with his horse drawn wagon for the tour. The dinner will start at 5:00 pm, the wagon ride will be back close to that time. The meal will consist of prime rib, potatoes, vegetables and dessert. The meal is free; the funding will come from the recreation fund and the Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers Club will donate a prime rib roast. More information will be posted in the November newsletter. Mark your calendars.

Meeting adjourned with each member having a task list to complete. Next meeting November 14 due to Thanksgiving the following week.

FALL FESTIVAL EVENT

On October 20 the Fall Festival was held. It was a rainy day, but the people came and fun times began. The horse drawn wagon rides began at noontime and were continuous. The people lined up, and the wagon was in constant motion. Everyone enjoyed the ride, even if it was raining.

The firemen set up their food wagon and had people lined up for the french fries and chicken tenders. The laughter could be heard and the smell of the food cooking carried throughout the area.

Inside the Community Room kids were painting their pumpkins and were very creative. Children were trying to catch the hanging donut to take a bite out of it and laughing as they kept trying. On the opposite side of the room, Shelby was showing a slide show of all the fun activities that have been held throughout the year.

In the bay of the fire department the bouncing house was set up. The kids kept that a very busy area and it was a great success. It was enjoyable to watch the kids laugh and enjoy themselves.

The apple pie contest had five entries. Each pie was given a number, so the judges did not know who had entered the pies. The pies were displayed for judges to view for appearance and scored. Once the judges were done with the viewing, the pies were cut. Each judge was given a slice from the same pie to taste and score. This method continued until all pies were judged.

Outside the pumpkin seed spitting contest was held. This involved a lot of laughing and cheering. Colby Atwood was responsible for measuring the distance. Everyone enjoyed this event.

This was a fun, relaxing day for all who attended. The Recreation Committee would like to thank the following people: Mr. Kendrick Charles, for bringing his horse and wagon to make our event exciting; all the firemen (Kip Poulin, Rod Wills, Brian Rundlett, Josh Handrahan) who donated their time to cook and be there to help and give to their community; the people who offered (agreed) to be judges for the scarecrow contest - Petrina Bearor, Marilyn Gorman and Arlene Newell and the apple pie contest - Bonnie Atwood, Marilyn Gorman and Arlene Newell. THANK YOU!!!

Now the entries and winners of the contests:

Scarecrow Contest:

Rebecca Racine, Alan Trudel, Friends of the Library, Austin Wills, Braedon Wills and one scarecrow did not have a name for the entry.

Winners:

- 1st place - Rebecca Racine
- 2nd place - Braedon Wills
- 3rd place - Friends of the Library

Apple Pie Contest:

Ashley Hartwell, Lewis Wills, Drew Frazier, Judi Wills, Mary Robinson

Winners:

- 1st place - Judi Wills
- 2nd place - Drew Frazier
- 3rd place - Mary Robinson

Pumpkin Seed Contest:

Austin Wills, Braedon Wills, Kip Poulin, and Lewis Wills

When the judging was done on all the contests, the judges did not know who had entered. All entries were given a number, and that is how the judging was done. All names were kept a secret until judging was finished.

The Recreation Committee appreciates all the people who helped us make this a fun family day for the community. Thank you again.

Submitted: Judi Wills

Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers

The October meeting was called to order with eleven members present.

The secretary's report was read and accepted.

Trail Master: Kendall reported that both the municipal and club grants are ready to be sent. He also stated that he had

received a letter from MSA stating that the amounts that clubs receive from the grants will be reduced this upcoming year due to a decrease in snowmobile registration.

Social Director: Janine reported that she will be planning some club trips once the snow arrives.

New Business: The new trail maps have been sent to the printer and should be back within a month. If any one is interested in purchasing a map, they can contact one of the officers. Joyce read that Sudie Myers had been the recipient of the club's 2012 scholarship. The club cleared around \$400 at the New Portland Fair. Discussion was held about whether to continue to sell tickets at the fair. It was decided to vote on it at a later club meeting.

Other: The annual land owners' dinner was held. A huge thank you goes out to all those who helped.

The next meeting is November 17; hope to see more members attend.

Submitted: Joyce Knowles, Secretary

Announcement

COMMUNITY CAROLING AND DINNER will be held on Sunday, December 2, 2012 and will be a day for the community to come together and enjoy themselves. The recreation committee has arranged for Mr. Kendrick Charles to have his horses and wagon at the Community Center for our annual caroling ride. We will have another wagon available so everyone will be able to participate. The ride will start at 4:00 pm and will travel to North New Portland and return to the Community Room. Bring a blanket, dress warm and bring your singing voices.

The Community Supper will start at 5:00 pm. This year the meal will be prime rib, potatoes, vegetables, coffee/tea/hot cocoa/punch, and dessert. This is all provided free to the people of New Portland. The Recreation Committee, along with Wire Bridge Snow-Travelers, will purchase all the fixings for the meal.

We hope to see many of you there to enjoy the evening with people we live with in our community!

Submitted: Judi Wills, Stacy Rundlett, Jessi Campbell

New Portland Historical Society

Announcing the Annual Craft Sale which is sponsored by the New Portland Historical Society. This will be held at 9:00 am on Saturday, December 1, 2012 at the New Portland Fire Station, 911 River Road, New Portland. Lunch will be available. Something for everyone!

Submitted: Marilyn Gorman

New Portland Community Library

November Community Read – (Book Club, Kay Michka)
The New Portland Community Library is pleased to host John Ford, Sr., as he discusses his book *Suddenly the Cider Didn't Taste So Good, Adventures of a Game Warden in Maine* on Wednesday, November 7 at 6:30 pm. As part of our Community Read program, we invite everyone in New Portland and surrounding towns to join us for an evening of exciting tales, laughter, and refreshments as Mr. Ford shares his former career and current writing craft with us.

A retired game warden, Mr. Ford lives in Brooks, Maine, and is brother-in-law to New Portlanders Roland and Jean Morang. During his twenty years on patrol in Central Maine, he kept a diary and entertained locals with his stories. He began writing for the VillageSoup papers and Northwoods Sporting Journal newspaper, winning first place for sports column in the 2007 Maine Better Newspaper Contest with "Memories from a Game Warden's Diary." He was encouraged to recount his humorous and sometimes frightening encounters with known criminals in this current compilation of short stories, with a second book in the works.

Even if you do not have a chance to read Mr. Ford's book in advance, the night promises to be worth attending as we support this local author and gain from his gift of storytelling. If you do have a copy, please try to return it to the library soon or pass it along to a friend, so more people will have the opportunity to read at least some of the stories before we meet the author. It's a very quick read! The library is located at 899 River Road (Rte. 146) across from the Town Office. Direct book inquiries to jonnylaw@fairpoint.net, local libraries, or they will be available for purchase and signing the night of the event, making wonderful holiday gifts.

The Book Club will not be meeting in December.

Friends of the Library – (Petrina Bearor) Please note we've changed November's Activity Night to November 28 due to Thanksgiving falling so close to our normal date. We will offer two activities. Come learn various fly tying techniques with our local experts. You will leave with a fly guaranteed to catch a trout next spring. If you have your own equipment, feel free to bring it. Our experts will be bringing theirs, too. We will also be offering an opportunity to create a holiday arrangement. The library board will supply greens and items to create your arrangement. If you have a container or any other floral or greenery additions you want to use, please bring them with you. Refreshments will also be served. All of these activities are free to the public. Looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday the 28th of November at 6:30 pm.

Knitwits and Happy Hookers will meet on the 8th of November from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. We will decide that day if we meet again this month. I also want to note that

winter is approaching. If storm days are declared for our schools, we will not be meeting, either.

100 Club winners for September: Anna Boucher, Petrina Bearor, Alison Thayer, Kay Michka (twice), Gary Cobb, Bonnie Atwood, Joan Moes, Lorie Hibbard, Laura Dunham, Ruth Arrington, Shelby Newell, Brian and Stacie Rundlett, Betty Cobb, and Tranten's Store.

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

From the Librarian – (Shelby Newell) One of the greatest gifts you can give your child is the love of reading. How do you do that? The biggest difference you can make is to read to your child. Take a little time each day to read to them. Look at the pictures, talk about what you see, point to words and pictures, and have fun! Those few special moments can make a huge impact in your child's life.

It is so exciting to have more people coming into the library every week. It is thrilling to sign up new patrons and show them around the library to see what we have to offer. People are coming in to use our wireless internet, do job searches, check out the free software tutorials available through Minerva, and much more.

New Selections:

For adults - *The Casual Vacancy* by J.K. Rowling (book and also audio), *NYPD Red* by James Patterson, *Princess: A True Story of Life Behind the Veil in Saudi Arabia* by Jean B. Sasson, *Winter of the World* by Ken Follett

For teens - *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai, *Scumble* by Ingrid Law, *Writing Magic: Creating Stories that Fly* by Gail Carson Levine, *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jacqueline Kelly

For children - *Tales for Very Picky Eaters* by John Schneider, *Bones: Skeletons and How They Work* by Steve Jenkins, *Race Cars Up Close* by Andra Serlin Abramson, *Yucky Worms* by Vivian French

New DVDs - *The Five Year Engagement*, *Rock of Ages*, *Hatfields & McCoy*s

Bring the children to the library on December 1 at 9:00 am to help decorate the library's Christmas tree. We'll make ornaments, have hot cocoa, and enjoy getting the library decorated for the holidays!

The New Portland Community Library is located across from the Town Office at 899 River Road. 628-6561. Hours are M-W-Th 4:00 – 6:00 pm, and 10:00 am to noon on Saturdays.

Submitted: Kay Michka

Community Churches

Sunday church services concluded in the North New Portland Church with an evening service on September 30. We thank Fairbanks Union Church for joining us in worship for this special celebration of the lights in the church, both inside and outside, that were part of the renovation efforts for this year.

Over the winter we will be planning the next phase of the renovation, as funding allows. Church services are now being held in the West New Portland church at the usual 11:00 am time. Join us for coffee at 10:30 am.

The Wire Bridge Thrift Store has winter items out for sale. Come outfit the whole family with winter gear from head to toe for just a few dollars. Thrift store hours are 9:00 am – 12:00 pm on Saturday morning. Donations of clothes, washed and in good condition, are welcome.

There will be a pie sale to support the North New Portland Church at the polls on voting day November 6. Do your civic duty and pick up a tasty homemade pie at the same time.

The final church supper of the season will be held on Thursday, November 15, at 5:00 pm. Pot roast will be served. If you can't stay for supper plan to order "supper-to-go."

The New Portland Churches wish to extend a huge thanks to Roger Belanger for his selfless care of the church yards. Roger gives his time and equipment to keep our church yards looking lovely. We deeply appreciate his commitment and wish him and his family well.

Submitted: Nan Berry

Citizen's Corner

Waterfront Properties Trick or Treat: The Halloween season may be over, but for all New Portland waterfront property owners, it is still "trick or treat." I would love to be happy with the new property assessment the Selectmen/ Assessor did this past year, but that is impossible. I believe, somewhere there is a major error with their new valuations.

Let's start with my property. My land value on less than an acre went from \$9,200.00 in 2011 to \$30,700.00 under the new valuation done for 2012. That is a \$21,500.00 increase in valuation or a 230% increase. That's a wicked high jump! I would like to be happy like I said before because my property has more equity, but that equity is false. I have called around to local banks and to realty agencies and all have said the same. When a property owner from New Portland comes to them for a sale or a refinance, it triggers a new appraisal on their properties. All the properties in New Portland are coming in \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00 less than the town has our properties valued, and waterfront properties are unrealistic.

The selectmen told us at a meeting that the State of Maine Bureau of Taxation made them do the revaluation. If that is true, then the town's valuation must have been off according to the State of Maine by 25% or near \$1,000,000. The reason I do not believe the town was off by that much is because four years ago we were at around 90%. Since then the economy has fallen off, not improved. Okay, let's say the State of Maine did mandate the revaluation. The Selectmen/Assessors tell us after the revaluation the overall town's valuation only increased by \$60,000.00. How is this possible? How will that little amount make the State of Maine Bureau of Taxation happy? How did the overall town's valuation only go up by \$60,000.00, when at least 300 waterfront properties went up by 230% or about \$30,000.00 on the first acre. (The 300 count is my guess, because the assessing agent told me she did not know how many waterfront properties there are in New Portland.)

The increase on my property and my abutting neighbor's increase on their property makes up the \$60,000.00 in new valuation the Selectmen/Assessors tell us the overall town went up. Where did the rest of the new valuations go? How could that happen? Either the same number of properties went down in value, as much as the waterfront properties went up in value and the town balanced out that way. Or there has been a huge mathematical error. I hope that it is the latter because the first scenario smells of unfair taxation

practices. That would be the worst thing an assessor could do to their own town and to the name of all qualified assessors in the State of Maine. No manual cross checking of figures took place, according to the Selectmen/Assessors.

At one of the meetings the Selectmen/Assessors held about this revaluation, they stated that they did not know anything about assessing. Then, why did they not form a committee for the re-evaluation or at least hold informational meetings? Or they could have asked for help from qualified people in town. Seems to me, as citizens of the town of New Portland, we must mandate that the Selectmen/Assessors go to assessing training courses.

I urge all waterfront property owners and any other property owner in New Portland who believes that their new valuations are wrong to file an abatement form. These forms are available at the Town Office. If your abatement is turned down, which is what I expect the Selectmen/Assessors will do because they do not want to admit any mistakes, file a form for hearing by the appeals board to hear your abatement. Please keep this a hot issue. I am also in contact with the State of Maine Bureau of Taxation because I truly believe there is an error in the new re-evaluation somewhere. I will keep digging! Thank you.

Submitted: Janet White



POSTAL PATRON
NEW PORTLAND MAINE 04961

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
New Portland, ME
Permit No. 1

The New Portlander
Established July 1994



NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2012



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
November 6 Presidential Election! Poll Hours: 8:00 am - 8:00 pm Poll Location: New Portland Fire Station Community Room, 911 River Road, New Portland				1	2	3 TOWN OFFICE OPEN 8am - Noon Wire Bridge Thrift Store Open
4 West Village Church 11 am	5	6  Selectmen's Mtg. 6:30 pm	7 NPCL hosting retired Game Warden author 6:30 pm School Bd Mtg 6 pm Planning Board Mtg 6:30 pm	8 Knitwits & Happy Hookers NPCL - 10 am - noon	9	10 Wire Bridge Thrift Store Open
11 West Village Church 11 am	12	13 Library Board Mtg. - 6 pm NPFd Mtg. - 6:30 pm	14 Activity Night at NPCL at 6:30 pm Rec. Committee Mtg at Comm. Mg Rm 6:30 pm	15 Final Supper at West Church 5:00 pm	16	17 Sno-Travelers Wire Bridge Thrift Store Open
18 West Village Church 11 am	19 Selectmen's Mtg. 6:30 pm	20	21	22 Knitwits & Happy Hookers NPCL - 10 am	23	24 Wire Bridge Thrift Store Open
25 Deadline for <i>New Portlander</i> entries at 4 pm West Village Church 11 am	26	27 NPFd Mtg. - 6:30 pm	28 NPCL Fly Tying & Holiday Arrangements	29	30	1 NPCL Children's Hour Ornament & Craft Decorate the Library Fair at Fire Station 9:00 am