



NEW PORTLANDER



INFORMATION IS THE CURRENCY OF DEMOCRACY — THOMAS JEFFERSON

PUBLICATION VOLUME 22 NUMBER 5

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

NOVEMBER 1, 2015

E-mail for town business: nwprtld@tds.net | Mail for Town Office - 901 River Road, New Portland, ME 04961

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/CEO: Stacie Rundlett - Ext. 1

Deputy Town Manager: Kristen Mitchell - Ext. 0

Tax collecting, registrations, hunting & fishing licenses

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday11am - 5pm
Thursday2pm - 7pm
1st Sat. of ea. month (except holiday weekends)..... 8am - 12pm

Town Clerk: Kristen Mitchell - Ext. 2

Deputy Town Clerk: Stacie Rundlett

Vital statistics & dog licensing

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday11am - 5pm
Thursday2pm - 7pm
1st Sat. of ea. month (except holiday weekends)..... 8am - 12pm

LPI: Robert Dunphy - Ext. 5

Assessor's Agent: Terri Lamontagne - Ext. 3npassessor1@gmail.com

Monday and Tuesday.....9am - 5pm

Fire Department: Chief Kip Poulin - Ext. 4

Email for Town Manager nwprtld@tds.net

Email for Town Clerk newportlandtownclerk@gmail.com

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, Thurs4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Tuesday and Saturday morning from 10:00 am - noon (Thank you)
- **Kingfield-New Portland Transfer Station Hours:**
Wed, Sat, and Sun..... 7:30 am – 4:30 pm
Fri..... 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm
- **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
New hours 10:00 am - Noon.
- **Knitwits & Happy Hookers (NPCL)**
2nd Thursday of the month at 10:00 am

From the Town Office

The office staff has decided to do a supply drive for the Franklin County Animal Shelter, with whom New Portland contracts. Here is a list of items that would be a great help to the shelter for their needs. During the month of November there will be a drop box at the Town Office if anyone would like to drop off an item to help. Some of the things we can use are laundry soap, bleach, kitten milk replacement KMR, canned cat food, Purina kitten chow, Purina Cat chow, Purina dog chow, dishwasher detergent tabs, dog/cat toys, kitten bottles.

Thank you for any contributions.

Stacie and Kristen

FREE PUBLIC SUPPER

The Selectmen, Fire Department and Recreation Committee are cordially inviting New Portland residents to join us at the New Portland Fire Station on Sunday, December 6, 2015 from 5:00 – 6:00 pm for a **FREE** public supper. Town officials will be cooking and serving the following menu as a way to say thank you for your continued support over the past year:

- Prime Rib
- Potatoes
- Veggie (TBD)
 - Rolls
 - Salad
- Brownie Sundaes

There will be no tax payer dollars used for this supper, so please come and join us for some good food and great company!

New Portlander article submission deadline is November 20 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@tdstelve.net

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

Town Clerk

Hello New Portlanders,

Just a reminder that November 3 is ELECTION DAY in the Community Room/Fire Station from 8:00am-8:00pm. If you are not registered to vote in this town and would like to be please remember to bring a photo ID and proof of residency here in New Portland. If you have an absentee ballot you have not returned in order for it to be counted it needs to be brought back by 8:00pm on November 3rd. As, always if you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me during office hours or email me anytime.

If you have not licensed your dog/dogs please do so to avoid late fees.

Submitted: Kristen Mitchell

Selectmen

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for September 21, 2015; Selectmen Present: Wayne Rundlett, Mike Senecal, Andrea Reichert; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Becky and Gilbert Taylor, Ron and John

Andrea called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Selectmen reviewed minutes from the previous meeting. Andrea motioned to accept as written with a spelling correction, Wayne seconded and all were in favor.

Board members reviewed and signed A/P and payroll warrants.

Mike was called and placed on speaker phone; so, he could hear the proceedings of the meeting. Andrea relayed to Mike on the phone the amounts of the warrants and brief description as to for what each was. Wayne briefed everyone on the new fire truck and how far along they were on getting the truck in service. Wayne briefed everyone on the pump testing that was going to take place on Friday.

Andrea relayed that there was only one item on the agenda for the Selectmen, which was the signing of the Snow Plow Contract. There was a discussion regarding the installment amounts. There was also a discussion regarding contractors carrying general liability insurance as well as insurance on their vehicles. The board members and Gilbert came to an agreement on the amounts of the installment after the initial installment of \$50,000 in October. November and December payments would be in the amount of \$26,000 each. And January through April would be \$30,750. That would be a total of \$225,000 for the season. Andrea, Wayne and Gilbert signed the Snow Plow Contract. Stacie witnessed their signatures. There

was a brief discussion about the screening process and a time for the selectmen to check out this process.

Wayne motioned to adjourn, Andrea seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the October 6 meeting. smr

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for October 6, 2015

Selectmen Present: Wayne Rundlett, Mike Senecal, Andrea Reichert; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Becky and Gilbert Taylor, Terri Lamontagne, Brian Rundlett, Judi Wills, Kip Poulin, Gary Agren, Kristen Mitchell, Marilyn Gorman

Andrea called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

The selectmen started the meeting with public comments, questions or concerns about the General Assistance Ordinance for 2015-2016. Stacie advised the board that Somerset's figures have increased slightly, per the state's guidelines to determine eligibility for general assistance. There was a brief discussion. Andrea motioned to accept the new guidelines, and Mike seconded and all were in favor.

Selectmen reviewed minutes from the previous meeting. Mike motioned to accept them as written, Wayne seconded and all were in favor.

Kristen finalized paperwork with the board member's regarding the freedom of information act. Kristen updated the board on voting information and dog licensing process. She updated them on all of the recent training that she has done for the clerk's office through vital statistics and the Bureau of Elections.

Gary updated the board on work he has left to do. He updated them on the last storm and the beaver damages in town.

Kip discussed the possibility of putting in a dry hydrant on Gilman Pond Road. There was a brief discussion regarding this. He updated the board that currently there had been 57 calls, payroll is around \$5200. The new truck is in service; there are just a few things to finish up with that. Turn out gear has been ordered. Traffic arrows will be ordered. He briefed the board on pump testing that had been done recently. There was a discussion on making arrangements to be put on the agenda for the Somerset County Commissioner's meeting for November 18 to discuss mutual aid with Highland/Lexington.

Brian updated the board on an upcoming public hearing for the Planning Board. It is just for an additional permit

that CMP needed to submit for a repeater that they did not remove. It is the same as the others that have been permitted, just cleanup work from the previous permits.

Judi shared with the board the Comprehensive Planning Boards findings from the comprehensive survey. The majority of the comments from the survey questions covered revitalizing the West Village. She will leave a notebook at the town office so they can be viewed by the public if asked. There was a discussion regarding the questions, comments and suggestions on how to finalize the Comprehensive Plan.

The board talked to Gilbert regarding his progress on sand/salt piles and his preparation for the season.

Terri shared with the board the two abatement requests that had been submitted. Lewis Wills requested \$1000 in valuation/ \$17 in amount to refund, due to town's data showed more acres than they have. Mike motioned to grant the abatement, Wayne seconded and all were in favor.

Polly MacMicheal requested \$16,800 in valuation plus depreciation. Terri discussed her findings regarding her assessing the property at 100% complete. Polly states the property is only at 79%. There was a discussion regarding this request. The board asked to see the TRIO figures based at the 91% that is on Terri's completion form she used when she went out to the property. Andrea motioned to table the matter until the next meeting. Terri asked if it could be moved to the first meeting in November. Mike seconded and all were in favor.

The board reviewed and signed payroll and accounts payable warrants. Stacie briefed the board regarding a property in the West Village and the status of permits required. There was a brief discussion regarding current ordinances and the enforcement of them. There was a brief discussion regarding public boat launch possibilities.

Judi updated the board regarding the upcoming Fall Festival being put on by the Recreation Department and the Library on October 24 from 11:00 – 3:00 pm. There was a brief discussion regarding a Trunk or Treat that some community members were doing in the Community room area parking lot. October 31 from 3:00 – 5:00 pm.

There was a discussion regarding another community supper. It was decided to be on December 6. More plans to follow.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the October 19th meeting. smr

Planning Board

Planning Board Minutes for August 5, 2015; Present: Peter Gardiner, Brian Rundlett, Jim Heichel, Lewis Wills, Stacie Rundlett, Brook Gardiner. Peter called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

The Board reviewed the minutes from July 1, 2015. Lewis motioned to accept the minutes as written, Jim seconded; all were in favor.

There was a brief discussion regarding an application that was presented in July from CMP. Jim and Lewis received a copy of this application as they weren't present at the July meeting. They will review it and discuss it at the next meeting.

Stacie updated the Board of a possible Fire Department Billing Ordinance that will be presented to the board soon for the Board to review and offer any suggestions.

Peter motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jim seconded and all were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Planning Board at the September 30th meeting. Smr

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett

Comprehensive Planning Committee

New Portland Comprehensive Plan met on October 5, 2015. Members present: James Heichel, Barry Turcotte, Alison Thayer, Bob Whitten, Stacie Rundlett, Marilyn Gorman and Judi Wills.

At the previous meeting the surveys that were sent to all residents and land owners were reviewed. We started with dividing the surveys between each member. We started to record all responses from surveys. Members read the answers and a person recorded and tallied responses. After an hour and 30 minutes we had covered up to question 5 on all returned responses. This was a tiring and long evening.

The surveys were then reviewed by one person, recording responses to each question into a notebook. This took a few hours a night until completed. The responses were then entered into a blank survey questionnaire under each question. This was completed for the meeting on October 5. Each member of the committee reviewed the completed questionnaire and discussion was held.

The purpose the survey was to gather ideas on what residents wanted or felt needed to be changed or improved. It was a chance for residents to give us their

views and suggestions. Some of the surveys did have these things in place, others told us what was missing and what they wanted to have done. Many of the responses on surveys were to improve the West village and the homes and to have businesses in town, a gathering place for people so they can socialize with neighbors. Some wanted a school in town again. One of the questions asked citizens if they would join a committee to help with activities in the town. We had 38 no's, 11 yes, 14 not able, 10 maybe and 1 yes with a phone number. We received 87 surveys back, 8 were blank, and a number of the surveys only answered one or two questions.

The committee's task now, is to build a comprehensive plan with future possibilities for the citizens of New Portland to decide. The planning requires outlines of steps on how to achieve the changes that were decided. The Comprehensive Plan is not a zoning ordinance, nor is it a law. It is an advisory document setting out the community's goals for the future and the policies and programs necessary to move the town in the direction of its goals. It is a foundation on which to build the town's land use controls and a road map that can be used by the town's elected and appointed officials to steer the town in an agreed-upon course.

The Comprehensive Plan needs to be submitted to the State of Maine to be eligible to apply for grants, funds or other financial support and to help the town meet its goals. This is very important to this town to help development and future needs. Respectfully. . .

Submitted: Comprehensive Planning Committee

New Portland Community Library

From the Librarian - Shelby Newell - As you may have heard, I will be stepping down as Library Director of the New Portland Community Library. It was an incredibly difficult decision but something that I needed to do. I have enjoyed my time as librarian and hope that the library continues to thrive and grow. It is an amazing place, and if you haven't visited, I hope you do soon. You will not be disappointed!

Children's Hour will work a little differently during the month of November. We will have two events and not one in December. The two dates to save are November 7 and 28 at 9:00 am. I have some special things planned for these upcoming events, so I hope you can bring your children and have a little fun!

Friends of the Library - Knitwits and Happy Hookers will meet only once in November. See you on Thursday the November 12 at 10:00 am.

We are going to try something new at the library. We are hosting a Community Storytelling event once during the fall and, perhaps, again in the cabin fever month of March. Arrive with one five minute story to tell....no rules, except keep in mind this will be an all ages event, ha ha. Photos or props might earn you extra applause! Have a famous family funny? Share it! Know some good-natured dirt on a relative? Spill it! (but remember that old saying about "paybacks"....especially if the relative is present and knows a story about YOU!) Spooky stories, tear jerkers, lies, tall tales, childhood recollections. We'll be all ears! Join us for this VERY informal hour of community lore on Sunday, November 15 at 2:00 pm. We promise to have some yummy treats and warm drinks to make you feel welcome. You'll be home in time for TV football, too! 899 River Road (across from the Town Office).

...And the October 100 Club Winners are.... Anna Boucher, Jim & Jane Heichel, Marsha Siviski, Barbara Bruno, Kay & Alan Michka, and Kenneth Atwood. Congratulations!

Art at the Library - Thank you again to all the local quilters who shared their craft the past several months and graciously attended the Quilters' Meet and Greet at the New Portland Fall Festival. A new show will be going up the first week of November and showing until the end of January. Stay tuned to New Portland Community Library Facebook page and the December *New Portlander* for the artist's details and reception dates. Please come by in the next few months to enjoy the local talent on display.

From the Library Board of Directors - The New Portland Community Library is currently accepting resumes and seeking qualified applicants for the position of Library Director ("Librarian"). Reporting directly to the Board of Trustees, the Library Director is responsible for overseeing all aspects of Library operations to efficiently and effectively serve the public needs. The job becomes available December 1, 2015. We are seeking a candidate with strong oral communication and writing skills, a pleasant and approachable demeanor, an eagerness to promote the library's purpose in the community, and a willingness to learn the administrative duties required of this position. There is a 30 hour per month contractual agreement, which pays \$10 per hour. Interested persons should apply by submitting a resumé, cover letter and three references to newportlandcl@gmail.com or 899 River Road, New Portland, ME 04961. Questions may be directed to the same addresses. If you feel you meet these qualifications, we are eager to receive your application!

Submitted: Kay Michka

Community Churches

New Portland Community Church services for the New Portland Community Church moved to the West Village Church in October and will continue there through the winter. We will have our usual services as well as a Christmas Eve service on December 24. There will be more information on that service in the December *New Portlander*.

The last monthly church supper at the West Village Church was in October. The funds raised from these suppers helps so much in supporting the church and the services it provides. We appreciate everyone who helped out in donations of time and food. A huge "thank you" to everyone who attended suppers this year, and we hope we will see you next April. Have a safe and happy winter!

The thrift store is now open for business every Saturday morning, 10:00 am – noon. If you have not been in recently it's worth checking it out. Whether you like it or not, winter is here, and you might want to check the thrift store for some cozy winter items now in stock. Annual Christmas Sale at the West Village Church will be held on December 5 and December 12.

Monthly breakfast will be held on November 5 (first Thursday of the month) at Tindall's Dam Diner at 8:00 am. All are welcome. Please join us for worship on Sunday mornings. Join us for coffee hour from 10:30 to 11:00 am. Services begin at 11:00 am. The following is a list of ministers who will be joining us in the month of November: November 1 [Communion] – Rev Doug Walrath, November 8 – Rev Stan Wheeler, November 15 – Rev Doug Walrath, November 22 – Rev Tony MacNaughton, November 29 – Rev Jim Singleton. Respectfully. . .

Submitted: Nan Berry

The Western Mountains Baptist Church will be hosting a weekend retreat, November 6 - 8, called "Experiencing God". For more information and to register to participate, call Pastor Tom at 557-3802 or the church 265-2557. There is no charge. For more up to date information about this weekend visit our facebook page.

For the winter, the Ladies Walking Group will continue meeting at the church on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm, making use of a variety of walking videos. This group is open to women of all fitness levels. You go at your own pace. For more information, call Crystal at 491-7433.

Friday, November 13, the Gems Club will meet at the church after school. If you have a young girl who would like to spend time with other young girls making crafts, learning about the Bible, cooking and playing games, text Rosie at 779-4524.

Sunday worship services begin at 10:00 am. Come as you are! Happy Thanksgiving.

Submitted: Crystal Fitch

Announcements

I would like to thank everyone who helped make the New Portland Church suppers a great success. Don't forget to come to the New Portland Historical Society Craft Sale, November 14 starting at 9:00 am at the New portland Fire Station Meeting Room.

Submitted: Marilyn Gorman

The flags will be taken down on Sunday the 15th of November. Anyone who would like to assist please arrive at the Town Office at 9:00 am.

Submitted Stacie Rundlett

Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers

The October meeting was called to order with ten members present. The secretary and treasurer's report were read and accepted.

Trailmaster: Brad will be attending a training session in Lewiston concerning the grants. He is in the process of finishing the paperwork for the grant applications. Judi has written a letter to EnviroMats asking them to donate some bridge mats to the club. The club will need to contact TDS Telecom about the possibility of getting some of the old telephone poles that are being taken down on Rt. 146. Work on having the groomer ready to begin the season will be starting soon. Six track splices are being purchased, the radiator is being repaired, and Lewis is pricing a new window to replace the broken one. He will be contacting people to help with fixing the tracks. The club will be purchasing more bridge plank. Kendall will call Dillon's Saw Mill in Lexington.

Old Business: Judi contacted Mike Monahan about the cost and design of decals for the club, but had not heard back from him at the time of the meeting.

New Business: Bill suggested having a poker run/barbecue with a possible time being Martin Luther King, Jr., weekend. We will get back to you with more details as plans are finalized. Judi will contact insurance company to see if our policy would cover this activity. A discussion was held about whether or not to keep the club land across from the fair grounds. It was decided to hang on to the land for now. The club is trying to come up with some ways to boost attendance at meetings. A suggestion was made to meet in the morning of the 3rd Saturday, instead of 6:30 pm with possibly having a brunch before the meeting. We would appreciate your feedback on this suggestion. You can contact one of the club officers to give us your opinion. Next meeting will be November 21, 6:30 pm, at the Fire Station meeting room. We would love to have more people join our club!

Submitted: Joyce Knowle

