



NEW PORTLANDER



INFORMATION IS THE CURRENCY OF DEMOCRACY — THOMAS JEFFERSON

PUBLICATION VOLUME 22 NUMBER 3

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

SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

E-mail for town business: nwprtInd@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 Wednesday9am - 5pm

Fire Department: Chief Kip Poulin - Ext. 4

Email for Town Manager nwprtInd@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 & 4th Thursday of each month at 10:00 am

Selectmen

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes 07-07-2015

Selectmen Present: Andrea Reichert, Wayne Rundlett;
Present: Stacie Rundlett, Gary Agren, Brian Rundlett, Kip Poulin, Becky and Gilbert Taylor, Ron and John Linders-Demeres, Mike Malesky, Marilyn Gorman, Leisa Emery

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm.

Board members reviewed and accepted previous meeting minutes as written with one spelling correction and one grammar correction.

Gary asked the Board of Selectmen for permission to clean out the old Fire Station in the West Village. There is a lot of old and broken typewriters and printers upstairs and he would like to clean the mess up. The Board members were all in agreement that if Gary wanted to do that he could. Gary also spoke to the Board members about work that he still has to do for Summer Roads. Gary talked to the Board about a culvert that Paul Hilensky on New Portland Hill Road had installed without a proper permit. He asked for a letter to be written to Paul, asking him to remove the culvert and apply for permit to install a culvert if he still chose to install the culvert. It was not put in correctly and is blocking the ditch and water can't get through it. He can get an entrance permit if he applies for one, it will just need to be done properly.

Judi Wills took a moment to compliment the grading work that has been done so far this year.

There were no items by the Public.

The Board of Selectmen opened two bids received for the Snow Plow Contract. 1. GR Taylor & Sons- \$225,000 per season 2. American Construction Services-\$239,500 per season. After reviewing all of the documents submitted with each bid the Board of Selectmen determined that American Construction Services did not have a complete bid. It did not include a Bid Bond which was required. Wayne motioned to accept Gilbert Taylor's bid of \$225,000. Andrea seconded, and all were in favor. Andrea stated that this would be an increase of \$18,000 per season compared to last contract.

New Portlander article submission deadline is September 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@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.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed and signed an A/P warrant and payroll warrants. Stacie gave the Board members preliminary figures that they will need to commit taxes. County Tax increased \$18,785.97 from last year. The Municipal Budget increased \$27,857.05 from 2014. The School Budget increased \$11,943 from last year. And the Revenue Sharing that will be coming in from the State of Maine, and it will be decreasing \$1872 from last year.

There was a brief discussion about talking to Terri about adding her email to the Town's website and the *New Portlander* website so the public could have another option for contacting her. Stacie asked the Board about office hours for Terri once the taxes were committed, to list it in the *New Portlander* and on the website. Andrea stated that the Board would discuss that with her as well.

Stacie briefly shared with the Board that she had found a couple of ordinances pertaining to Fire Departments and billing for commercial trucking accidents. Stacie also reminded the Board that Safety Works would be coming on August 27 for an assessment of town owned properties. This is to make sure the town is compliant to all labor and safety laws.

Andrea motioned to adjourn, Wayne seconded and all were in favor at 6:57 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board at the July 20th, 2015 Selectmen's meeting smr

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes 07-20-2015

Selectmen Present: Wayne Rundlett, Mike Senecal, (Andrea absent); Present: Stacie Rundlett, Kristen Mitchell

Mike called the meeting to order at 6:29 pm.

Board members reviewed and accepted previous meeting minutes as written.

Selectmen reviewed and signed payroll warrants that were presented to them. There was a brief discussion regarding the commitment of taxes. Stacie shared with the board members that she previously gave Terri financial figures needed from her so Terri could commit the taxes which were as follows: County Budget \$161,544.49; Municipal Budget \$506,778.00; School Budget \$639,565.00; Revenue Sharing \$33,128.00;

Other Revenue: Tree Growth-\$43,068.26; Veteran's Exemptions- \$2,029.00; Franchise-\$580.60;

Surplus? (for the Board of Selectmen to decide if any)

Mike discussed with everyone about assessing and working with the public. There was a brief discussion on a recent request of information with which Stacie could not assist. Stacie shared with the board that she thought the

taxpayer did reach Terri for his request. Mike confirmed that all assessing requests be submitted to Terri and a log be kept of such. Mike hoped to discuss with Terri different options for taxpayers to meet with Terri or to be able to contact her. Mike motioned that Stacie call Terri and request that Terri be present at the next meeting to discuss things. Wayne seconded.

Kristen briefly updated the board on the clerk's office.

Wayne motioned to adjourn the meeting Mike seconded, and all were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the August 4, 2015 meeting smr

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes 08-04-2015

Selectmen Present: Andrea Reichert, Wayne Rundlett, Mike Senecal; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Gary Agren, Brian Rundlett, Kip Poulin, Kristen Mitchell, Judi Wills, Marilyn Gorman, Douglas Archer

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm.

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

Kip reviewed with the Board the proposed billing ordinance for the Fire Department. There was a brief discussion regarding any feedback from Maine Municipal Association. There currently wasn't any input from MMA. There was a discussion regarding what this ordinance would be for. Kip clarified with everyone present that this ordinance was just to recoup costs from the tractor trailer/commercial truck accidents. It would also cover negligence, arson and other areas where the town could recoup some funds under these areas. All of the Board members were on board with this ordinance, all though they were curious as to how an ordinance like this would stand up in a court of law. Kip reiterated that this is not to go after New Portland residents. There was a discussion regarding the process for completing this ordinance. It was decided that more information was needed from the attorney. Stacie will follow up with MMA and update the Board and Kip once that information has been received.

Kip briefed the board on possible prospects to purchase the Mack. There was a discussion about the Pierce and the generator that the Town is trying to sell. It was decided to lower the Pierce to \$45,000. Mike seconded, and all were in favor. And Mike suggested lowering the generator to \$10,000. Wayne seconded, and all were in favor. Kip would make the adjustments with the brokers with which these are listed.

Gary briefed the Board regarding tires for the grader. The Board members felt this was a necessary purchase. He reviewed with the Board the work he has done. There was a discussion regarding the Road Ordinance and funds allowed to be spent before it has to go to a bidding process. After a thorough review of the Road Ordinance, it was decided that road maintenance does not fall under this part of the ordinance. And the work Gary is referring to on the Middle Road is considered maintenance by all the Board members. Judi complimented the work that had recently been done on Hancock Pond Road. Gary reviewed other roads and the work that was proposed to be done on them. There was a brief discussion regarding a letter that had been sent to Paul Hilenski regarding a culvert that was installed without a permit. She would try to follow up with Paul to see what the status was for this entrance. Gary also informed the Board members that he would not be around from August 14 - 24. The Board, Gary and Stacie all reviewed what the protocol is for any issues that might come up during Gary's absence.

Judi briefed the Board on the comprehensive survey and what the Comprehensive Planning Board is in hopes to complete in the future. She talked about fitness trails or biking trails that the Comprehensive Planning Board is trying to include in the new Comprehensive Plan that is currently in the works. Gary offered to donate loam to go around the area around the playground. Judi also mentioned that Gilbert has also donated any amount of sand needed to also improve the playground area. Judi talked about the weeding that needs to be done at the playground, and her article in the *New Portlander* asking for some assistance from the public with this.

Kristen asked the Board about an email she sent regarding the Freedom of Information Act. She reiterated to them the importance of everyone completing this training and signing of a certificate for everyone that will need to be kept on file. There is a penalty of \$500 for each violation of not having this documentation on file. The Board members assured her that they would complete this for her ASAP. Kristen also talked to the Board about updating the job descriptions that were last done in 1998. Kristen offered to put together packets of current job descriptions for the Board to review, and then they could proceed from there on revising them. The Board members agreed that would be a good place to start.

The Board members reviewed and signed payroll warrants only. Stacie also reviewed with the Board results of Maine Municipal Associations Risk Management that came out to the town and the recommendations made to the town on three violations and the dates they needed to be completed.

Stacie also reminded the Board that Safety Works is still scheduled to visit with the town on August 27. There was a brief discussion regarding the Board of Selectmen, Kip and Stacie and a proposal to be put on the Somerset County Commissioner's Agenda. Stacie is to find out when the meetings are and figure what will work best for the Selectmen and Kip. She will update them by email.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed information that Terri had left for them, regarding information for completing the tax commitment. Terri was not able to attend because she was away at tax school. There was a discussion regarding the whole process of the tax commitment and the tax rate calculation form and the miscommunication on the time frame needed for the Selectmen to make their decisions on the mil rate and whether to use surplus or not. Mike reiterated that that is why he wanted Terri at this meeting. The Board asked if there was any documentation that might have been left for them regarding the BETE paperwork that is a part of the tax rate calculation form used to choose the mil rate. Stacie stated that what paperwork they had in front of them was what was left on her desk from Terri to give to the Board members. There was a discussion regarding if the figures that were in front of them and the choosing of the mil rate. Stacie pointed out that the documents that incorrect figures under the OTHER REVENUE line on the paperwork provided to them. There was a discussion regarding surplus and what the Board members were comfortable with to use to lower the mil rate. There was a discussion regarding the T.I.F. financing amount. Mike motioned to take \$47,000 from surplus to keep the mil rate at 17. Wayne seconded, and all were in favor with the understanding that all of the figures that Terri provided to them were accurate. Andrea proposed another meeting with Terri once she is back from tax school. The Board asked Stacie to email her letting her know they would like to review and sign commitment papers on Wednesday, August 12 at 6:15 pm at the Town Office. This is a public meeting, and Stacie will publicize this meeting.

Stacie discussed with the Board her concerns of an ongoing rumor regarding her and changing her tax information. She asked if the Board had had an opportunity to look into this matter and if they found any facts to this accusation. Stacie asked that the Board do an audit of her taxes and then have a discussion regarding this matter. There was a lengthy discussion regarding rumors and how to properly address them. Stacie provided a printout to the Board of her property taxes showing that the taxes on her property is the same as it was many years ago when it was owned by her husband's uncle Clayton, except that he had a veteran's exemption and Stacie and Brian do not. They discussed the changes that have already been

made in the system regarding access. Mike reiterated that Stacie is still employed for the town. Andrea also felt that if there was any validity to the accusation there would have been some kind of disciplinary action taken. She also said no one has said anything to her about it. No one has called her about it. Wayne said he heard from one person. Judi spoke up and said that she had received six phone calls asking if she heard what Stacie had done? She shared that she understood where the Selectmen were coming from not going into a lot of details about this, and she also understood where Stacie was coming from wanting to clear things up, but she felt it was a blank statement that has been put out there. She stated she thought a clearer explanation of the executive session that was held in June would help address this issue. Andrea stated she was bothered that six people called Judi and not her. Kristen said she had been approached also. Stacie discussed her feelings on importance to just clarify. All the Board members understand what is being said to them and will review minutes and figure out a way to better clarify this for the public.

Wayne motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mike seconded and all were in favor. 8:03 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the August 12th meeting smr

New Portland Community Library

The Librarian - Shelby Newell - Thanks to all that attended our Pie Social on August 19! It was a From hot day, but we appreciate those that braved the heat and joined us for a slice of homemade pie and perhaps added a scoop of ice cream. As school begins, keep in mind that many classrooms ask students to do some nightly reading. If you are in need of a book, come see us at the library and we are more than willing to help you find a great selection. If we don't have what you need, we will work on getting it for you.

Children's Hour is the first Saturday of October, which is the October 3 at 9:00 am.

Special thanks to John D. Maynard and Tyler for doing the repairs to the library's septic system. They donated their time and materials, and we are very appreciative of their generosity.

Remember we are open on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4:00 – 6:00 pm, and Tuesday and Saturday from 1000 am - noon. Stop in and check out a new book or dvd. We have a lot to choose from and are always getting new material in!

Friends of the Library - Watch for posters around town

and in the October New Portlander for details about an exciting, community fall event to take place toward the end of October. Join the library's Facebook page, too, and keep up to date on event information.

Knitwits and Happy Hookers will meet at the library at 10:00 am on September 10 and 24. Anyone wanting to knit, crochet, or work on handwork in a group setting, please join us!

...And the August 100 Club Winners are...Dallas & Brenda Landry, Jim & Jane Heichel, Wanda Calder, Randy & Tabitha Emery, Gregory & Patrice Drummond, and Wardy Atwood. Congratulations, and thank you for supporting the library.

Art at the Library - Surrounded by all the quilts on display, come get cozy at the library to do your computer work or read the library's copy of *The Irregular*. The display will be leaving soon, so admire the local talent while you can. Some of the quilted wall hangings and framed pieces are for sale, too.

Message from the Board of Directors President, Kay Michka - Our community library is growing by leaps and bounds! The NPCL Board of Directors is looking for people who want to share new ideas, new energy, and new insight and skills they have gained from past work and life experiences. You may have a lot to offer this local non-profit and not even realize it! Community members who are interested in sitting on the New Portland Community Library Board of Directors need to attend two regularly scheduled meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of every month. Each meeting begins at 6:00 pm and lasts about 60 to 75 minutes. After attending the second meeting, you will need to give notice to the Board, if you are interested in serving. Then, at their next scheduled board meeting, the Board will hold an executive discussion and vote to determine your service status. Please consider serving your community in this capacity. We look forward to seeing you at a meeting!

Submitted: Kay Michka

Planning Board

Planning Board Minutes July 1, 2015

Present: Peter Gardiner, Brian Rundlett, Kyle Handrahan, Wayne Rundlett, Stacie Rundlett, Brook Gardiner, Tim Gordon, Ron Clark from Enviormats. Peter called the meeting to order at 6:44 pm.

The Board reviewed the minutes from May 6, 2015. Peter motioned to accept the minutes as written, Brian seconded, and all were in favor.

The Board was given a new application that was just received to review from Central Maine Power for Wireless Communication Towers. They will review the application and discuss it at the next meeting.

Tim and Ron wanted to discuss with the Planning Board a proposal to have an adjoining field to the buffer area on the south side of the property be utilized for storage. There was a discussion regarding the approved plan from 1999 for the property, and how to move forward with any additional proposals for this commercial property. The Board had a chance to review several documents regarding this commercial property. The Board informed them that they needed to determine exactly what they want to do different than the previously approved permit and then take out the necessary permits with the Planning Board. Enviromats asked for copies of many of these documents as they did not have them. Stacie stated that if he came into the office she would give him copies of whatever was on file for this property.

Peter motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. Brian seconded, and all were in favor.

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett

New Portland Lions Club

Can't believe it is fair time. Only 18 more days. Hopefully, you will come to our 83rd year of having a small family fair.

New this year is wrestling at 2:00 – 3:00 pmon Saturday (weather permitting) Sunday, if rescheduled.

Please note that their is a questioner in the fair flyer this year. New Portland Lions need your input as to why you come to the fair. Your comments will be taken into consideration. Look for exhibition flyers and fair flyers in local stores,

See you at the fair.

Submitted: Catherine Horne

Community Churches

August was another busy month for the Western Mountains Baptist Church. There were 34 children who attended our Vacation Bible School. The curriculum was titled, "SonSpark Labs; Discovering God's Plan 4U=Jesus". Thirty-four children attended as young scientists; each one received a lab coat and glasses with thick lenses along with badges to scan as they entered various "laboratories". Throughout the mornings the kids did experiments, learned songs, played games and enjoyed snacks. During the VBS closing program on Thursday

night, it was obvious the kids, as well as the volunteers, enjoyed their week together.

We had a second baptism at Embden Pond during August, in addition to, a church clean up day and a few Service Ministry projects. As fall gets closer, we expect our Service Ministry to have more opportunities to help folks in our local communities prepare for winter. Each year our volunteers are eager to help prepare firewood and do minor carpentry work to make possible a warmer winter. If you or someone you know could use a helping hand, please contact us by calling the church at 265-2557.

September 13, we will be having a Cookout Potluck directly after church. Please join us for some good food and spend some leisurely time connecting with family and friends. Also during September, the Wednesday morning Ladies Bible Study and the Youth Group on Thursday evenings will start up again after a summer break. For more details, call 265-2557.

Weather permitting, we are trying something new and entertaining. Friday, September 18 at 7:00 pm, we are hosting an outside movie night (aka as a drive-in movie) open to the public. The movie, *God's Not Dead*, will be projected onto the outside wall of the church for everyone's viewing enjoyment. Popcorn will also be available. The movie will be shown inside of the church if the weather happens to be a problem. Bring the family and join us for a fun night out.

For more information about WMBC services, events and Bible studies please call the church at 265-2557, Pastor Tom at 557-3802, email westernmountainbaptist@tds.net or find us on Facebook. We welcome all requests for prayer.

"May the Lord bless you and protect you." from Numbers 6:24 NLT

Submitted: Crystal Fitch

From the Editor

Two quick items: 1.) The *New Portlander* cannot accept articles or submissions for print without a name attached by/from the person who is submitting the article. This is criteria established by the newsletter and those who helped establish the newsletter. 2.) I personally would like to thank the person who mailed me an anonymous gift certificate to Tindall's Dam Diner. It is my understanding that this "anonymous" person has been donating these certificates for quite sometime. Thank you for your kindness and thoughts.

Submitted: Dallas Landry



The New Portlander

Established July 1994

901 River Road; New Portland, ME. 04961

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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|--|---|--|-------------------------------|---|
| | | 1 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm | 2 Planning Board Meeting 6:30 pm School Board Meeting 6:00 pm | 3 | 4 | 5 Town Office Closed in observance of Labor Day |
| 6 | 7 Town Office Closed in observance of Labor Day | 8 NP Fire Department Meeting - 6:30 pm Library Board of Trustees Meeting - 6:00 pm | 9 NP Water District Meeting - 7:00 pm | 10 Knit Wits & Happy Hookers Meeting - 10:00 am at NPCL | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 New Portland Lions Fair | 19 New Portland Lions Fair |
| 20 New Portland Lions Fair New Portlander Deadline at 4:00 pm | 21 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm | 22 NP Fire Department Meeting - 6:30 pm | 23 | 24 Knit Wits & Happy Hookers Meeting - 10:00 am at NPCL | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2015

