



NEW PORTLANDER



INFORMATION IS THE CURRENCY OF DEMOCRACY — THOMAS JEFFERSON

PUBLICATION VOLUME 22 NUMBER 6

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

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

LPI: Robert Dunphy - Ext. 5

Assessor's Agent: Terri Lamontagne - Ext. 3 npassessor1@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, Thurs 4:00 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

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!

From the Town Office

Stacie and Kristen are having their Annual Giving Tree at the Town Office. We will be taking gifts until Monday, December 21. Stacie is making gift tags that will be hanging on the tree here at the Town Office which have items listed on them. We have children from the ages of two to sixteen, and we also have adults who are in need, too. If you have any questions, you can call the town office or email Stacie or I. We look forward to making this year's Giving Tree another success and hope you all have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Town Clerk

There are going to be two (2) vacancies that will be voted on March 4 at the Municipal Election. There is one (1) vacancy for Selectman, and then there is one (1) vacancy for School Board. If you are interested in either of these positions, you can come in to the town office and pull papers starting on Thursday,

New Portlander article submission deadline is December 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.

December 10. The papers have to be by Tuesday, January 19 in order to have your name on the ballot in March.

Hello New Portlanders,

We had a very successful and smooth Referendum Election on November 3, 2015. A big thank you to Marilyn Gorman, Arlene Newell, Winona Emery and Nancy Steuber for being my Election Clerks for this election! We had 115 come in on Election Day and 17 absentee ballots. The following are the results: Total Number of Ballots Cast: 132 (17 were absentee ballots); QUESTION 1: CITIZEN INITIATIVE - 65 YES, 67 NO, 0 BLANK; QUESTION 2: BOND ISSUE - 87 YES, 45 NO, 0 BLANK; QUESTION 3: BOND ISSUE - 81 YES, 50 NO, 1 BLANK

If you have not licensed your dog(s) yet please do so before January 31, 2016 to avoid a late fee of \$25.00 per dog.

Submitted: Kristen Mitchell, Town Clerk

Selectmen

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes 10-19-2015

Selectmen Present: Andrea Reichert, Wayne Rundlett, Mike Senecal; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Judi Wills, Marilyn Gorman

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm.

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

The board reviewed and signed accounts payable and payroll warrants. The board members reviewed and signed paperwork for supplemental tax warrant for Sheri Phillips from previous meetings approval.

The board reviewed and signed paperwork for abatement request for Lewis Wills which was approved at the previous meeting.

Mike talked with the other board members about his ride around with Gilbert Taylor to look at all the town turn-arounds. He suggested that in the spring that some of the turn-arounds be maintained as it is needed on some of them. He will bring the subject back up in the spring. He also discussed options for Freeman Ridge Road and plowing in the winter time.

Wayne inquired with the other board members if any of them knew about Terri's office hours. He has had people asking him, and he wasn't sure at this point what they were. No one else had heard from her regarding her office hours. Stacie stated that she gave notice to the front office to make changes in her hours to be Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. This was to start November 1. They all agreed that Terri should be present at the next meeting and discuss things with Terri.

Judi talked to the board about the free public supper. There was a discussion regarding this and a date and menu was confirmed, and Andrea would do a letter to submit to the *New Portlander*.

Mike motioned to enter into executive session, Wayne seconded and all were in favor at 6:52 pm. The Board entered back into public meeting from executive session at 7:49 pm.

Andrea motioned to proceed with arrangements for a public hearing for a dangerous building. Mike seconded and all were in favor. Andrea motioned to grant an abatement for the years 2013 and 2014 in the amount of 1587.52. Wayne seconded and all were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the November 3 meeting smr

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes November 03, 2015

Selectmen Present: Wayne Rundlett, Mike Senecal, Andrea Reichert; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Terri Lamontagne, Judi Wills, Kip Poulin, Gary Agren, Steven Ochmanski, John Morrison.

Andrea called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

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

The Board reviewed documents requested from Terri regarding the MacMichael abatement that was tabled from October 6 meeting. Mike motioned to grant the abatement for the amount of \$47.60, Andrea seconded and all were in favor.

John Morrison was present to ask for abatement for the supplemental tax bill he received. Terri explained the circumstances for the issuance of the supplemental tax bill. It was a tree growth penalty for having more than one (1) home site on the property. John Morrison spoke on his own behalf. There was a lengthy discussion regarding tree growth laws and having two (2) home sites on the property. Mike motioned to deny the request for the tree growth penalty abatement, Andrea seconded and all were in favor. Terri presented to the board two abatement requests from Daryl Hilton. One in the amount of \$273.70 and a second one for \$25.50. The Board reviewed the information presented by Terri and her recommendation to grant the abatement. Mike motioned to grant both abatements, Wayne seconded and all were in favor.

Gary briefed the board on the few things he had left to do for summer roads. There was a discussion regarding Freeman Ridge Road and some work that needs to be done. Gary recommends that we pave New Portland's portion of that road. There was a brief discussion. The subject will be brought up again at budget time.

Kip briefed the board on the fire department having about 61 calls to date. There was a discussion regarding the Pierce and options to sell it. It was agreed that it would be lowered to \$25,000 OBRO and listed again on MMA website. There also was a discussion regarding the generator and lowering it to \$10,000 OBRO. There was a brief discussion regarding upcoming commissioners meeting on November 18 and who would be able to attend and discuss fire suppression for the unorganized territory.

Steven Ochmanski was present to ask the board of Selectmen to accept a payment arrangement for back real estate taxes. There was a brief discussion with Steven and an agreement was made. Mike motioned to accept an agreement for \$750 now and remaining balance to be paid in monthly installments over the next six (6) months. Andrea seconded and all were in favor. A land purchase agreement would be drawn up and recorded.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed and signed abatement paperwork. The Board appointed Heather Hilenski, Wayne Rundlett, Bobbi-Sue Harrington as Cost Sharing Committee members for RSU #74 and Stacie Rundlett as an alternate member.

The Board members reviewed and signed Payroll and Accounts Payable warrants.

Andrea motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(A) at 7:55 p.m. Mike seconded and all were in favor. Entered back into a public meeting at 9:09 pm.

The board asked for an executive session to be on the next agenda to do employee evaluations.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the November 16 meeting, smr

Comprehensive Planning Committee

The committee met with the following members present: Alison Thayer, Barry Turcotte, James Heickle, Bob Whitten, Stacy Rundlett, Marilyn Gorman and Judi Wills.

The committee worked on reviewing the comments received from survey. We now need to create goals to meet what some of the information we received suggested. This will be done by making goals with policies that will direct the action. These policies will need to be reviewed by the Planning Board and the town. The policies will give direction and instruction to activities and actions that need to be followed. Example of this is one of the questions on survey was "should the town attempt to attract commercial development?" The reply "yes" had 41, "no" was 9, "depends" was 1 and 8 had no response. From this one question we will do an action plan that will make suggestions to make this possible. (ex: promote an environment that would attract businesses that will improve the economy of New Portland.) This will take looking at what resources are available to the town for financial help and other resources.

The committee started this activity and will continue this work for the next few meetings. All this work will be put together and eventually sent to the state for review. The state has to approve what we suggested, and we as a town have to follow through with the goals and policies that were reviewed by the Citizens of New Portland.

The committee is working well together and has the best interest for the Town now and in the future.

Submitted: Judi Wills

Recreation Committee

On October 24, 2015, the Recreation and Library committees held a Fall Festival at the area of New Portland Community Library and the Community Room. The turnout of people was very good and exciting. Many activities were going on and food and activities were enjoyed by everyone.

The pie contest was very successful this year. There were four entries for pumpkin pie, and three entries for apple pie. The judges were Jasmyn Wagg, Marilyn Gorman, and Stacy Rundlett. They were very serious about the judging and seemed to enjoy the task. As the pies were brought in, they were assigned a number. The judging was done by the number of the pie. Judges did not know who entered a pie. First place winner for pumpkin pie was Jane Heichel, second place went to Billy Peterson, third place was Petrina Bearor. Each received a ribbon and money. First place winner for apple pie was Cindy Taylor, second place Judi Wills, third place, Dee (did not get last name). Thank you so much for taking the time to bake and enter.

The judges for Scarecrow Contest were Marilyn Gorman, Rose Hendrix and Arlene Newell. Thank you for your time. This year also brought out some really great scarecrows. First place was a tie between Sponge Bob Square pants (the Dulacs) and Paul Bunyan and Babe (Braedon Wills). Both received ribbons and prize money. Second place was Where's Waldo by the New Portland Library and third place went to Little Miss Muffett by Aubreigh Wills. There was a late entry which could not be judged, but did bring a lot of attention, well done by Billy Peterson and Mike Sencal. Again thank you all for the fun and start thinking for next year.

The Fry Pan Toss had a crowd ready to start tossing and challenging. The idea was to toss a cast iron fry pan as far as you could to win. The following is the length that was done by each person. Lewis Wills - 67.1', Mike Senecal 75.5', Josh Handrahan 104.5', Brian Rundlett 79.5' Muriel Handrahan, her first throw was done with a pan she snuck into the challenge. She decided to throw again with the "team" pan for 35.6'. Wayne Rundlett, 56', Brad Buckland 62.6', and the last throw was done by Kyle Handrahan, 85.2'. So, winner declared was Josh Handrahan; he received the gold cast iron pan. Last year the Cast Iron Pan was put out of commission due to someone breaking the handle on their throw. A new pan was purchased this year for the event... again, the pan was broke by the same person. So, he received the broken handle to mount on his wall. The challenge is on for next year...prize will be bigger. This was so much fun. Thank you all for joining in.

We look forward to doing this again next year, please help the committees to plan and organize this event. The Library Committee did a wonderful job in all areas; there was so much activity going on. Great gathering of town's people and attendance to the different events. I would like to thank the judges for scarecrow contest, pie contest and all who tossed the pan.

Submitted: Judi Wills

New Portland Community Library

Library News - Congratulations to Doug Archer, \$500 winner of the Ball Fall Library Fundraiser. Thank you to all who purchased a chance to win the prize. It certainly helps us keep new books on the shelves. We would also like to thank everyone who attended the library activities at the New Portland Fall Festival. The Photo Challenge is always a draw, showing off the local amateur photography talent. Thank you to Jim Taylor for leading the bee keeping discussion, and Jean Sawtell for leading the rug braiding demonstration. Shelby's bookmark activity was a hit with the children who visited her craft station on the library porch. Thank you to Josh Handrahan for manning the 'smores fire pit and scaling the library roof to drop the contest ping pong balls, and Ron and Joan Sarner were perfect contest judges! We also appreciate the local quilters, whose work has been on art display this past quarter and for stopping by to talk about their craft. By the way, Kip Poulin and Wayne Rundlett, you guys are the best, for generously helping move the remaining books from the used book sale back to the library! It was a treat to help put on the festival with the fire department and recreation committee. It seemed like everyone was having a very good time at the festivities on that beautiful fall day!

Community Storytelling was a fun afternoon, despite the flu and cold virus going around that kept some people at home in bed. Maybe again in March?

There will be no Children's Story Hour in December. For the holidays, perhaps you could give the gift of reading to the children in your life. Purchase books as gifts, read aloud to them, have them read to you, make up stories together and illustrate them...so many options!

At the time of the deadline for this article, NPCL is still posting an opening for the Library Director position. If you are interested in applying, call the library at 628-6561 during operating hours of M/W/TH 4-6P or Tuesday and Saturday 10:00 am - noon to inquire if the position is filled and for more information on how to apply, if it is still available. You can also email newportlandcl@gmail.com to inquire. The library is located at 899 River Road in New Portland across from the Town Office.

Knitwits and Happy Hookers will meet December 10 at 10:00 am. We will not meet again in December. Also, if there is a snow storm and school has been cancelled, we will not meet. Sorry we had to cancel on short notice during the November 12 power outage!

Art at the Library - As of November 8, a new art exhibit graces the walls of the New Portland Community Library featuring the drawings, paintings, and photographs of Allison Dubois. Please visit the library to peruse the talented work of this budding artist. An artist's reception took place on Sunday, November 8, and quite a crowd gathered to meet Allison to speak with her about her passion for the arts and her formal art training. Allison graduated from Plymouth State University in New Hampshire with an Art Education Degree, with a minor in Art History. She is employed at the Stratton School. She lives in Salem, Maine. The show will run

through the end of January.

Friends of the Library - Thank you to 100 Club Members for your continued support! November Winners were David Richardson, Debora Clague, Betty Cobb, Pat Meldrum, Roland & Jean Morang and Ezra Pease.

Happy Holidays, Everyone. It's been a wonderful year at the New Portland Community Library, thanks to you. See you in 2016!

Submitted: Kay Michka

Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers

The November meeting was called to order with 15 members present.

The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. Introductions were made because we had several new members attending the meeting.

Trailmaster: Brad reported the municipal grant had been sent, and the club grant would be sent soon. He also reported a bridge had been build, railings had been set on another bridge, and a new trail had been brushed and signed. The groomer is almost ready to go for the season. Lewis mentioned the club is still not allowed to use the road around Gilman Pond at this time. New Business: Judi is going to contact Black Bear Graphics about pricing for club decal. They originally did the club patches.

Discussion was held about changing the meeting time to Saturday morning, instead of evening. A vote was held and the members decided to keep the meetings to Saturday evenings.

Social Director: Linda wanted to remind people the annual Christmas party will be on December 19 at 6:30 pm, at the fire station meeting room. We will hold our business meeting first, then a Yankee swap afterwards. Everyone wanting to participate in the swap should bring a gift (\$5.00 limit). We are also asking people to bring in two food items to donate to a local food cupboard. We will have refreshments, people have brought to share after the swap.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm. Next meeting December 19.

Submitted: Joyce Knowles

Community Churches

New Portland Community Church continues to meet at the West Village Church on Sunday mornings. We are getting into that season when the weather can be questionable, and there will be occasions when Sunday services may be cancelled due to inclement weather. Please call Floyd Cook at 628-4327 or Nan Berry at 628-6061 for information about cancellations.

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.

DO NOT MISS the Annual Christmas Sale at the West Village Church on December 5th and December 12th from 9:00 am – noon!!!! There will be great gifts to be had at fantastic prices. There will be books, puzzles, games, toys, bicycles, and many other items. This sale is held every year thanks to donations to the church that come all the way from New Jersey. The sale provides gifts at a great price, and the proceeds help fund the church and its programs.

Monthly breakfast will be held on December 3rd (first Thursday of the month) at Tindall's Dam Diner at 8:00 am. All are welcome.

We will be having a Service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm. The church is decorated beautifully, special music is part of the service, and candles cast a lovely light in the quiet of the evening. Oh, come all ye faithful... to worship the newborn King. Please join us for worship on Sunday mornings. 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 December: December 6 – Rev Doug Walrath; December 13 – Rev Stan Wheeler; December 17 at 7:00 pm at Fairbanks – Community Service of Compassion and Hope; December 20 – Rev Doug Walrath; December 24 at 5:00 pm – Christmas Eve candlelight service; December 27 – Rev Tony MacNaughton

Wishing you all a safe and Happy Holiday Season and a very Merry Christmas! Respectfully. . .

Submitted: Nan Berry

Western Mountains Baptist Church held the "Experiencing God Weekend" held on November 6 - 8th was full of teachings, testimonies, music and small group discussions. The Texas Baptist Men (and women) came to New Portland to lead participants through an overview of Henry Blackaby's "Seven Realities from Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God". And this was just the beginning! In the upcoming weeks a plan will be put in place to begin a twelve week study to provide a more in-depth study into the seven realities. As always, everyone is welcome to join in on this opportunity of study and spiritual growth.

A delicious and abundant turkey potluck dinner was held on November 15th. We had approximately 90 people come together to celebrate a meal and fellowship together. Our next Fellowship Dinner will be held in January; so stay tuned for the exact date.

For the month of December, Youth Group will continue to meet at the church on Thursday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30. For more information about Youth Group, call 684-2050. Be sure to ask about the winter activities that are being planned.

A Men's Breakfast will be held December 5th at the church at 8:00 am. The men also meet each week on Monday evenings at

6:30 pm for a Bible Study. Call Jean at 265-2698, he will gladly answer any questions you have about the events of the Men's Ministry. This is a great opportunity for fathers and sons to spend time together learning about the Bible.

Sunday, December 20th, please join us during our 10:00 am worship service to sing Christmas carols. For more information about the activities and events at the Western Mountains Baptist Church leave a message at the church at 265-2557 or call Pastor Tom DuBois at 557-3802. Or check out and like our facebook page.

John 3:16, "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life". NLT

Merry Christmas!

Submitted by: Crystal Fitch

Citizens' Corner

New Portland Residents,

Many of you that use the DSL service for internet access provided by TDS Telecom have probably experienced a significant degradation of service. What started as 3 MB service has all but degraded to that of a dial up modem.

In September, we wrote a letter to the Chief Executive Officer of TDS outlining our dissatisfaction with the DSL. We also sent copies to Senators Collins & King, Congressman Polliquin, State Senator Whittemore, State Congressman Skolfield, and our town's Selectmen.

Several weeks later, Senator King had an article in the local newspapers, featuring the need for improved broadband connectivity in rural areas. He stated that several municipalities in Maine have teamed up with service providers and utilized available government financing to improve service in their communities. I'm sure the timing was a coincidence.

For our rural area, any economic growth will largely be the result of home-based businesses or small shops opened by entrepreneurs, all of which will need reliable, state-of-the-art internet access to be viable. Back in 1918, the Herbert Grand Hotel led the hotel industry by being the 1st hotel to have a telephone in every guest room. Almost 100 years later, it is time again for this area to lead the country in reliable, rural broadband connectivity and internet access. I urge everyone to write to TDS Telecom – the address is below – and to all your national, state and local government representatives. *Our future depends on it.*

TDS Telecom
Mr. Dave Wittmer - CEO
TDS Main Office
525 Junction Road
Madison, WI 53717

Submitted: Ed Jesteadt & Bonnie Frick-Jesteadt, New Portland



The New Portlander

Established July 1994

901 River Road, New Portland, ME 04961

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	



NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR DECEMBER 2015

