



NEW PORTLANDER

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

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TOWN OFFICE INFORMATION

Phone: 628-4441 • Fax: 628-4440

Town Office Contact Information and Hours of Operation:

Town Manager/CEO: Stacie Rundlett - Ext. 1
Email nwprtInd@tds.net

Deputy Town Manager: Kristen Mitchell - Ext. 0
Tax collecting, registrations, hunting & fishing licenses
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 11am - 5pm
Thursday 1pm - 6pm
1st Saturday of each month (except holiday weekends) 8am - noon

Town Clerk: Kristen Mitchell - Ext. 2
Email newportlandtownclerk@gmail.com

Deputy Town Clerk: Stacie Rundlett
Vital statistics & dog licensing
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 11am - 5pm
Thursday 1pm - 6pm
1st Saturday of each month (except holiday weekends) 8am - noon

LPI: Robert Dunphy - Ext. 5

Assessor's Agent: Ext. 3 newportlandassessors@tds.net

Fire Department: Chief Kip Poulin - Ext. 4

Town Office

We want residents to know that with our new winter hours for Saturdays, if they call the office during business hours during the week, we can try to make arrangements to meet their needs. We have always tried to work with our residents and will continue to do so.

Selectmen

Minutes for the Selectmen's Meeting November 11, 2016

Selectmen Present: Raymond Poulin, Mike Senecal, Andrea Reichert (absent); Present: Stacie Rundlett, Brian Rundlett, Mike Malesky, Gary Agren, Cheryl Knighton, Kip Poulin, Kristen Mitchell, Zach Haines, Phillip Cossaboom

1. Mike called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. Raymond motioned to accept the minutes as written, Mike scolded. All were in favor.
3. Department Heads
 - a. Kristen presented appointment papers to the board for the ballot clerks. The Selectmen reviewed them and signed them all. Kristen reminded everyone to go out and vote on November 8.
 - b. Gary Agren updated the board on work to be done. There were discussions on the surveying project on the Hancock Pond Road. Gary would be hiring Sackett & Brake to do the work, the board members agreed to this.
 - c. Mike Malesky updated the board on the new construction which he has documented. He requested that the next meeting be at the town office for an assessor's work session. The Selectmen were in agreement to this request. Stacie would post the location change for the next meeting.
 - d. Kip Poulin discussed with the board on possible locations for a dry hydrant to be installed next year. There was a brief discussion regarding some possible interest in the purchase of the fire truck that is listed for sale. He updated the board on the number of calls that they have received. He also updated some recent purchases that had been made.
4. Manager's Items
 - a. A/P and Payroll Warrants were reviewed and signed by the Board of Selectmen.
 - b. Stacie discussed with the board for budget talks to start at their first meeting in December. The board members agreed to this. Stacie discussed with the board that she would be out of the office from December 20 through December 27.

Remember...

- **Selectmen's Meeting**
1st Tuesday & 3rd Monday of each month6:30pm
- **New Portland Fire Department Meeting**
2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month6:30pm
- **New Portland Community Library**
Wednesday, Thursday4pm - 6pm
Tuesday and Saturday morning10am - noon
Sunday1pm - 3pm
- **Kingfield-New Portland Transfer Station**
Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday 7:30am - 4:30pm
- **Library Board of Trustees Meeting**
2nd Tuesday of the month6pm
- **Planning Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of the month6pm
- **New Portland Water District**
2nd Wednesday of each month7pm
- **School Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of each month6pm
- **Knitwits & Happy Hookers (NPCL)**
2nd & 4th Thursday of each month 10am

5. Items by the Public:

- a. There were discussions regarding the mil rate and why it was different on the bill compared to the minutes of a previous meeting. It was explained that this meeting is not where the taxes are actually committed. The information at the meeting was preliminary. Once the data was entered into the computer the final number is determined based on the program and sometimes it is different than the figures that are stated at a preliminary meeting, prior to the commitment. The mil rate that was chosen at that previous meeting was pending any changes once the data is entered into the system. Once the data is entered into the system the selectmen are notified of any need for changes, and they determine at that point what the final mil rate decision is.

There was a discussion with tax payer regarding a Land Purchase Agreement that was signed previously. The tax payer is in the process of selling this property, and there was a lengthy discussion regarding this taking place when the Land Purchase Agreement was still in place for the property. After thoroughly reviewing all the information the Board of Selectmen would allow an amendment to the original Land Purchase Agreement. This amendment would be that all of the taxes for this property would be that monthly payments would be mandated and that all back taxes be paid in full by March 20, 2017.

- b. This taxpayer also requested that the assessor's agent do a site visit to confirm that his property is assessed correctly. Mike Malesky. stated that he would gladly get together for a site visit.
- c. There was another discussion regarding the property before the Wire Bridge, and the signs everywhere and the portapotty. This is still an ongoing issue. The town has been trying to reach out to the property owners to have a meeting to try and resolve all issues and concerns of the property for the past two years. It was mentioned of the turnaround being blocked and rocks being stacked in the roadway and that this would be a hazard.
- d. There was a discussion regarding the work that had been done at 52 River Road. And it was a relief to many that all the debris has been removed.

6. Items by the Board of Selectmen

Mike Senecal wants to try and coordinate a meeting regarding a sand/salt shed. This would be a public meeting. The date and time will be determined and posted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the November 21, 2016 meeting. smr

Minutes for the Selectmen's Meeting November 21, 2016

Selectmen Present: Raymond Poulin, Andrea Reichert, Mike Senecal; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Mike Malesky, Marilyn Gorman, Judi Wills

1. Andrea called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.
2. Mike Senecal motioned to accept the minutes as written; Raymond seconded, and all were in favor.

3. Items by the Assessor's Agent

- a. Mike Malesky. discussed with the Selectmen that personal property is to be assessed and that it is in the constitution. He noted that there are 24 accounts that do have commercial (business) work. He also noted that there are six farms. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the state laws for personal property and the suggestions that the Maine Revenue Service made to assess anything over \$1000 in personal property or commercial equipment. It was noted that this was taking place here in New Portland previously, and it was unknown as to why it stopped, but it is required by law. It was agreed by all that it was necessary to be fair with everyone. It was discussed that most people with equipment would benefit to pay excise tax on their equipment verses paying personal property taxes on it. Anything over six years old if paying by excise tax would only pay the base rate multiplied by .004 mil rate. If the same person where to pay by personal property tax it would be the base rate multiplied by whatever the mil rate was set at for that particular year. For example: Excise tax- base rate of \$1000 x .004 = \$4.00; Personal Property tax - base rate of \$1000 x .0179=\$17.90 (.0179 is this year's tax mil rate).
- b. It was discussed that Mike Malesky would be making arrangements to either meet and/or notify all those that might be affected by this to discuss with tax payers what their best option might be. It was felt that a personal conversation would be most receptive to most involved.
- c. Mike Malesky. also shared with the board that he is now a Certified Maine Assessor. The board reviewed his results of his test and noted that his scores were great and congratulated him on his achievement.

4. Items by the Manager

- a. The Board reviewed and signed Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants.
- b. Stacie updated the board that she had reached out to the property owners by the Wire Bridge to again try to set up a meeting to resolve some issues. It was sent via certified mail and the property owner did sign for it, but at this time she has not heard back from them. Stacie also noted that she would be out of the office from December 20 through December 27.

5. Items by the Board of Selectmen

- a. The board reviewed with Judi Wills the community supper and all of the arrangements.
- b. Mike Senecal. discussed times for a meeting regarding a Public Salt/Sand Shed discussion. The date of December 5: at 6:00 pm was set for this meeting and would be posted so the public could attend.
- c. Mike Malesky. inquired about a rock on Hancock Pond Road on behalf of Gilbert Taylor.

There was a brief discussion regarding this. Mike Senecal said he would take a look at it.

Mike Senecal motioned to adjourn,; Raymond seconded, and all were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the December 6, 2016 meeting. smr

NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is January 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.

RSU 74 / School Board

The December school board meeting was held at CCS. Jean Butler made chex mix, and Bonnie White made pumpkin rolls. Needless to say, I ate very well.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Student Presentation: Mr. Reichenbach and two of his art students showed the board some of the clay projects that they have created. Mr. Reichenbach gets the clay from the Sandy River and uses a trash can kiln and sawdust. Sixth grader Hunter Sousa showed a bowl which he had made and also a creation with smiley faces. Fifth grader Pete Vicneire created a pinch pot and a turtle from clay. Following the presentation, Mr. Beverage commended the students and Mr. Reichenbach. He also commended the board for continuing to make art (and other subjects that encourage creativity) a priority.

Superintendent Report: Mr. Beverage spoke about the ongoing attempts to find areas in which RSU 74 and 59 can collaborate. In a recent email exchange, Madison Superintendent Bonnie Levesque indicated that while the Madison board would like to continue efforts to collaborate in areas of athletics and coursework, there is no interest in sharing a superintendent in 2017-2018.

Mr. Beverage believes that it is a mistake to just think of what might seem best for 2017-2018, but the districts should have a longer range outlook.

Board members received a reminder from Mr. Beverage that they need to be careful when using email.

Regarding PBE work and the need for students to demonstrate proficiencies to receive their high school diploma, schools are struggling to figure out what they will do with students who are unable to meet the proficiencies.

The new overtime regulations that were supposed to begin on December 1 which made it difficult for support staff to coach has been tabled for now.

Garret Schenck will be a rest stop for the 2017 Trek Across Maine.

A Carrabec High School student has asked to become a student rep on the school board. Mr. Beverage will explore how other school systems utilize student reps, and this will be on the January agenda.

Appointments and recent staff hiring: Marc Collard = CHS Math

Resignation: Dustin Zamboni = Carrabec Community School boys basketball coach

A board member asked why the resignation occurred and was told that there was only 14 members on the basketball team, and therefore, no need for two coaches. Some sixth grade kids were cut from the boys' team, which then led to questions about why cuts were made or if school policy allowed for middle school basketball cuts. Mr. Beverage is going to look into this.

Committees: The Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet on December 14.

Laura Layman asked about the condition of the Solon school. Mr. Beverage said that the school's tower needs immediate attention. He said there were other problems with the building that would need to be addressed as well. This will be discussed in more detail at the December 14 meeting.

Citizens: None spoke.

Actions: To Approve CCS as a Regional Emergency Shelter. It was approved.

To authorize administration of the school climate survey as activity of PBIS project for grades 3-8. [The survey is part of the PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention Support) pilot project. The purpose of the project is to improve behavior with use of more positive strategies. The survey, which will be completed before Christmas break, will have eleven questions for students in grades 3 - 5, and nine questions for 6 - 8 students.] The board approved.

Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Board/Superintendent relations. No announcement was made following the executive session.

To authorize the Superintendent to advertise for a Superintendent of Schools to be hired effective July 1, 2017. This item was tabled.

Executive Session for the purpose of discussing teacher contract negotiations. No announcement was made following the executive session.

Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with RSU 59 to share a superintendent. In light of the email from the Madison superintendent saying that RSU 59 was not interested in the idea of sharing a superintendent, this item was unnecessary.

Adjournment: The meeting ended around 7:30 pm.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 4, at Garret Schenck.

Submitted: Dave Ela, President of Carrabec Educational Association

Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers

The December monthly meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm with ten members present.

The secretary's minutes from the November meeting were read and accepted.

The treasurer read the checking account balance after the insurance payment and clarified insurance coverage. The club sponsored a local family for Christmas in lieu of the Landowner's Supper this year. Items from the family's wish list were purchased and brought to the town office, where the items will be wrapped and distributed before Christmas. The treasurer's report was accepted as read.

The trail master was not present at the meeting, but Lew reported that the groomer has been serviced, and he has started working on packing the trails and filling in holes. Depending on what happens with the upcoming storm, we may be able to groom.

The social director would like to begin planning club rides. If anyone has any ideas, please let Linda know. Those ideas can be short or long rides - all suggestions are welcome.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm, after which all attending members enjoyed the club holiday party. The next meeting will be Saturday, January 14 at 6:30 pm.

Submitted: Linda DeWolfe & Lynne Cary, secretaries

New Portland Library

From the library director and board members: We would like to take a few minutes to reflect and ask for your support. The New Portland Community Library is a community library and our community is quite large. We are trying to find more ways to find a common ground for all.

We display art work from local artists., have a children's hour one Saturday a month, and feature informative speakers.

Every Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00 noon is a "Toasty Tuesday" where people can get together for a game of chess, cards or cribbage maybe a puzzle with a hot drink and a snack. It's a way for you or someone you know to get out of the house on a winter day maybe see a neighbor whom you haven't seen in a while.

We have a huge selection of books that are continually updated. Children's books, from the Libra foundation to a variety of novels, many Maine authors, an interesting nonfiction selection. And a growing DVD selection.

We also have four computers for free use. There are several comfy spots to bring your own electronics and connect to our high speed internet.

A free meeting room is available for patron use and functions as well.

Along with looking for new patrons we are looking for a few, or many, people who are interested in helping the library but feel they don't have a lot of extra time and are not ready for a big commitment. As always, those interested in being on the library board are welcome as well.

We are scheduled open two hours a day, five days a week. A desk volunteer needs to work two hours a month-signing up at the beginning of each month. Or a library helper can come in anytime the library is open to cull or shelf or set up book displays. Very flexible.

Often we need help for a special event (baking, manning a table, etc) and also with fundraising ideas and carrying out these tasks.

Maybe there is a way you can help we have never thought of.

Stop in, call or email if you are interested or have any questions. Follow us on Facebook @ New Portland Community Library or email newportlandcl@gmail.com or by phone 628-6561

100 Club winners for the month of January are as follows: Steve & Arlene Trudel, Jim and Jane Heichel, Betty Cobb, Bob Whitten, Lori Hibbard, Anonymous

There will be a new art show going up in the beginning of January, please stop by to take a look.

Knitwits and Happy Hookers will meet on Thursday, January 12 and 26 for this month. All experience levels welcomed.

Update: The library will begin offering a new set of hours beginning Sunday, January 8; we will be open 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Make this a great day to grab a couple movies or a book or two to last the week! We will be closed on Mondays.

Submitted: Tabitha Emery

Community Churches

In addition to a happy new year, the Western Mountains Baptist Church will be celebrating the two year anniversary of hiring our full time pastor. It was a leap in faith for Tom DuBois to give up his full time engineering career to become the full time pastor at WMBC. As the congregation grew in the newly built church, it became clear a full time pastor was needed to meet the growing responsibilities and spiritual needs of the members and our local communities. Pastor DuBois was willing to step up to the call and has been non-stop busy ever since. No two days are the same. Pastor Tom, as he is lovingly called, has his hands in numerous projects and events. His passion and compassion for God's people is easily seen and heard in his weekly sermons, during wedding and funeral services, in the way he counsels folks in marriage, parenting, growing in their Christian faith and managing life's struggles. He visits the elderly, the sick, and those in need of prayer whether they are in a hospital, in jail, at the state house, in a restaurant or in their home. He is willing to meet people where they are. Being involved in the community is essential to the pastor, and he is not afraid to jump in by lending a helping hand where needed: working on wood piles, weatherization, building repair, serving snow cones and popcorn, hauling kids (young and old) up Gilmore Hill via snowmobile, taking part in local celebrations and events, such as the New Portland Fall Fest, the National Day of Prayer, or delivering food to the Kingfield food pantry etc. Reaching out to help other churches is also important to Pastor Tom. He travels weekly to Stratton to meet with a small group of Christians as well as lending a helping hand at a growing church in Skowhegan. He doesn't ask his congregation to do anything that he himself is not willing to do. His energy, enthusiasm and sense of humor during Bible studies, church leadership meetings and potlucks make him easy to be around and approachable. We at WMBC are blessed by Pastor Tom's deep commitment to his faith and leadership, and we look forward to how God will grow and mold all of us in 2017.

This month, the Men's Breakfast will held be Saturday, January 7 at 8:00 am. Men, young and old, are encouraged to attend for a couple of hours to cook and eat breakfast as well as enjoy friendship and a Bible study. Call Jean at 265-2698 for more information. He can also share information about the Men's Bible study that meets every Monday night at 6:30.

January 4, the Wednesday morning Ladies Bible Study begins a new study called, "All Things New" at 9:00 am. Call Betsy at 678-2328 if you would like more information about this study or about the other opportunities that women have to learn and grow together in building friendships.

Join us for a potluck lunch after the 10:00 am worship service on January 15, 2017. Lunch will be served 11:30-ish, and all are welcomed. Bring a dish to share or just show up, no money needed.

On Sunday mornings, Sunday School classes are held for all ages at 9:00 am. Worship service begins at 10:00 am where Nursery and Children's Church is offered up to third grade. Pastor Tom is available throughout the week by calling the church at 265-2557 or his cell phone at 557-3802 for more information about activities at WMBC or for prayer needs.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Submitted: Crystal Fitch

New Portland Community Church News for January 2017 - Happy New Year to all!

2016 came to a close following a very successful Annual Christmas sale. We thank you for the items that made the sale possible and for all the volunteers who helped with set up and the sale itself. There was a bicycle raffled on each Saturday of the sale. The winners of those bikes were Gillian Young of Canaan and Sylvia Bachelor of Strong. Congratulations! I'm sure those bikes will be appreciated and enjoyed!

The church in the West Village was beautifully decorated for the Advent and Christmas season by Floyd Cook. The lovely fresh wreaths indoors and out were generously donated by Fir Spirits of New Portland. Thank you, Doug and Roxanne Archer! Thank you to Betty Cobb for providing wreaths for the North Village Church.

Remember that the Thrift Store will be closed for the winter. Worship services are being held in the West Village Church for the winter months and will meet there on Sunday mornings until June. Coffee hour is at 10:30 am and the worship service follows at 11:00 am. See you there.

Ministers for the month of January will be: January 1 - 11:00 am, Hymn and Scripture Service; January 8 - Stan Wheeler; January 15 - Doug Dunlap; January 22 - Doug Walrath; January 29 - Tony MacNaughton. Respectfully. . .

Submitted: Nan Berry





The New Portlander

Established July 1994

901 River Road
New Portland, Maine 04961

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 New Years Day	2 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	3 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	4 School Board Meeting 6:00 pm Planning Board Meeting 6:30 pm	5 Town Office closed NPCL Children's Story Hour 9:00 - 10:00 am	6	7
8	9	10 Library Board of Trustees Meeting - 6:00 pm Fire Department Meeting - 6:30 pm	11	12 Knit Wits & Happy Hookers NPCL - 10:00 am	13	14 Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers 6:30 pm
15	16 Martin Luther King Day Town Office closed in observance Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	17	18	19	20 New Portlander Deadline at 4:00 pm	21
22	23	24 Fire Department Meeting - 6:30 pm Knit Wits & Happy Hookers NPCL - 10:00 am	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR
JANUARY 2017

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