



# NEW PORTLANDER

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DOUG KERR PHOTO

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Visit the Town of New Portland's web page at [newportlandmaine.org](http://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 ..... nwprtld@tds.net

**Deputy Town Manager:** Kristen Mitchell - Ext. 0  
*Tax collecting, registrations, hunting & fishing licenses*  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday ..... 11 am - 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:** Mike Malesky - Ext. 3  
Email ..... newportlandassessors@tds.net

**Fire Department:** Chief Kip Poulin - Ext. 4

## Remember...

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

## Town Manager

I would like to state that many have noticed the incredible work that has been done on so many of the stones at the cemeteries here in town. This is the hard work done by Theron Huff from Strong, and we would like to sincerely thank him for all of his hard work. We look forward to working with him this year on the many more stones which need his attention. I would also like to thank all those who were able to come out to town meeting this year. It was wonderful to see you all there. The Town Office will be CLOSED on April 17th in observance of Patriot's Day.

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett

## Town Clerk

We had the Municipal Election on Friday, March 3, 2017 with the following results: Board of Selectmen - three year term; Wayne Rundlett - 28, Write - in - 0, Blank - 0; RSU #74 School Board - three year term; Bobbi - Sue Harrington - 24, Write - in - 3, Blank - 1. Congratulations to Wayne and Bobbi-Sue.

An early date for all: On Tuesday, May 9 there will be the RSU #74 Budget Referendum Election. **There is a change in what has become our regular voting location for this Referendum.** We will not be voting in the Community Room / Fire Station located at 911 River Road for this vote only. We will have voting at the Town Office located at 901 River Road.

Submitted: Kristen Mitchell

## Selectmen

There will be a meeting of the Salt Shed Committee at 6:30 pm on April 20 at the Community Room at the fire station building.

### Minutes for Selectmen's Meeting February 20, 2017

Selectmen Present: Raymond Poulin, Mike Senecal, Andrea Reichert; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Wayne Rundlett, Brian Rundlett, Mike Malesky, Dee Menear, Marilyn Gorman.

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

Mike Senecal motioned to accept the minutes as written, Raymond seconded, and all were in favor.

The board reviewed and signed an accounts payable warrant.

There was a discussion regarding recent damages done to the Fire Station from snow and ice.

There was a discussion regarding the roads and plowing. The Board of Selectmen asked Stacie to invite Gilbert to the next Selectmen's meeting.

Stacie shared with the board that the draft of the comprehensive plan which has been completed, and there is a public hearing on the matter on March 3 at 6:30 pm at the town office. Mike Senecal asked if it could be put online. Stacie will add it to the website.

There were no items by the Board of Selectmen.

Meeting adjourned 6:52 pm.

*These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the March 7 meeting. Smr*

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett

# RSU 74 / School Board

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*Minutes: The minutes of the February school board meeting were approved.*

Student Presentation: Jobs for Maine Graduates Specialist Bethany Sevey and two students, Melanie Clark and Taylor Nile, addressed the board. Earlier this year they attended the Jobs for America's Graduates conference in Washington, DC. They attended many sessions on the topic of leadership and toured the city. Melanie and Taylor were two of the four Maine high school students to attend the conference. They spoke very highly of the conference.

Mr. Beverage, Tim Richards, and Dulcie Welch spoke very highly of the work done by JMG. They complimented Ms. Sevey and the JMG students on the work that has been done with blood drives, "trunk or treat", Secret Santa, help with the Boosters', etc. Later this year, JMG students will help with the Trek Across Maine.

Superintendent Report: The district has received an initial subsidy projection from the state. The early projection shows RSU 74 getting about \$70,000 less in subsidy than in 2016-2017. While this is a decrease, it is not as drastic as had been feared.

The expenditure report for 2016-2017 continues to be concerning. The budget is about 1% ahead. However, if the trend continues, the amount of carry over money going forward will be significantly less than anticipated.

The Blue Ribbon Commission will be focusing on how to close the achievement gap between low income areas of the state and the more affluent areas.

Together with RSU 59 and RSU 13, RSU 74 has completed a grant in hopes of getting funding for a portable STEM lab.

Mr. Beverage urged the board to be open to the concept of regionalization.

He informed the board that on the subject of student bathroom usage, the Trump administration guidelines are different from those of the Obama administration.

The board authorized the superintendent to explore ways in which to make up storm days. Some districts have added an hour to the school day. If an hour is added to five school days, that makes up one storm day that was missed.

The board finalized a budget timeline. I believe that staff will be emailed with an updated budget meeting schedule. The first meeting is scheduled for March 9.

CHS Report: Mr. Richards presented Dustin Crawford with the MPA Principal's Award. Four CHS students are participating in the Early College for ME program. SAT Prep is underway, and Maurice Langlois and Marc Collard will facilitate after-school SAT prep classes. National Honor Society inductions will be on/or around April 11.

Committees: The board's negotiating committee has been meeting with the Carrabec Educational Association negotiating committee. The board chairman reported that negotiations are going very well.

The superintendent search committee interviewed seven candidates for the position. (Later in the meeting, a superintendent was approved.)

Two ad hoc committees were created. The first was the admin restructuring committee.

The second was a committee to study and make a decision about middle school baseball. Many middle school parents attended the meeting. Last year, because numbers were very low at CCS and Madison Jr. High, there was a combined CCS/Madison middle school team As of

now, the board plans for the team to be combined this spring as well. It appears that 19 CCS students are interested in playing baseball. With 19 interested, it raised the question for some as to whether a combined team makes sense, or if CCS can have its own team. The discussion of this topic was at times quite intense.

Many parents wished to speak, and a few did. Many students wished to speak, and a few were given the opportunity. The parents/students in attendance seemed to be overwhelmingly in favor of a CCS team. Among the board, there were divisions on this issue. Some appeared to favor a CCS team. Board member Tammy Murray indicated she strongly favors a CCS/Madison combined team. She lamented the years where the CHS baseball team started the season with enough players for a team, but by the end of the year, the AD and coaches had to pull kids out of the closet in order to have enough players to field a full roster. The committee will consist of board members, rec directors, coaches, parents, etc. It is hoped that the committee can meet quickly and reach a decision by the March 9 budget meeting.

Citizens: Baseball was the only topic that citizens discussed.

To see if the board will consider SIEMENS proposal for HVAC services. This item was tabled.

Executive Session to discuss Administrative restructuring This item was tabled. The newly created administrative restructuring committee scheduled a meeting for 4:00 pm today.

Executive Session to discuss teacher collective bargaining When they emerged from this executive session they went back into executive session

Executive Session to discuss Superintendent Search When this executive session ended, the board moved on to the next item.

Nomination and Election of Superintendent beginning work on July 1, 2017. Mike Tracy was elected to be the next superintendent.

*Submitted: Dave Ela, President of Carrabec Educational Association*

## Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers

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The March 11 monthly meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm with thirteen members present.

The secretary's minutes from the February meeting were read and accepted. In an effort to go 'green', the secretaries request any members who have an e-mail address and are currently receiving the club minutes via US mail, please get in touch with us so we may add you to our e-mail list instead. Please contact Lynne Cary at [dcary@maine.rr.com](mailto:dcary@maine.rr.com) or Linda DeWolfe at [lindagriswolds5@aol.com](mailto:lindagriswolds5@aol.com) with your contact information. As a reminder, the club minutes are printed in the monthly issue of the *New Portlander* and will now be submitted to *The Maine Snowmobiler* on a monthly basis.

The treasurer read the checking and savings account balances. All bills are paid to date. The treasurer's report was accepted as read.

The trail master is currently working on club grants. He has spent approximately 20 hours working on the grants so far and would like to recruit other members of the club to volunteer their time to assist, as it is a lot for one person. The groomer has been down due to issues with the track. Thank you to the club members who assisted with repairs, as well as Sean from the Abenaki Sno-Riders Club who came over to help. Also, thanks to those who have been helping with grooming the trails. The trail master's report was accepted as stated.

The social director reports that due to current trail conditions, no upcoming activities are planned. She is waiting to see what the upcoming snow storm brings – we may try to do a poker run this spring

**NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is April 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](mailto: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.

if conditions allow.

Old business was discussed with regard to building a pole barn for the groomer on the club land. Lewis is speaking with the Lions about revising the deed to enable us to sell with the proceeds going to the Pine Tree Camps in the event the club disbands. He is also checking with the town regarding property taxes. Jim of the Kingfield Sno-Wanderers offered poles for us to use if needed. A suggestion was made to form a committee to discuss the possibilities and come up with a plan for the club to vote on. Committee members may get together the weekend of March 17-19 for an initial meeting.

New business: The new club mannequin, just placed on the side of the trail a couple of weeks ago, was stolen. The *Irregular* paper in Kingfield would like to do a story on the missing mannequin if everyone is in agreement. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm. The next meeting will be Saturday, April 8 at 6:30 pm.

*Submitted: Linda DeWolfe and Lynne Cary, secretaries*

## **New Portland Library**

Thank you to the generous community members of New Portland who approved our funding request! While we continue to raise funds to help meet our expenses, we could not do this without the town of New Portland's support.

May 26 – Coming up on us very soon is the annual Chinese Auction Fundraiser for the library. This is a reminder that we need useable items in good condition. Since it is time for spring cleaning, you may find some once “useful to you” items that you no longer need but may be useful to someone else! You can drop them off at the library Sunday 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Tuesday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, Wednesday and Thursday 4:00 – 6:00 pm, and Saturday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Call if you need more information – 628-6561. We cannot take books or clothing. Thank you for all your help and support!

Knit Wits and Happy Hookers will meet at the library from 10:00 to 11:30 am, the second and fourth Thursday of the month. Everyone interested in knitting, crocheting or other types of hand work is very welcome. We have coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and water available. There will also be some goodies to eat while we work and chat. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Children's Hour will be held at 9:00 am on April 8 at the library. The topic will be weather as April reminds us of showers after a white and cold winter.

The interlibrary system is working well. When we don't have a book, ask us to try interlibrary loan from one of the many libraries here in Maine. Orders placed are usually filled on Thursday mornings with a 2 - 4 week loan period. When you're done reading, drop it off at the library and we will gladly return the item for you at no charge.

If you use the library system to access download books and are having any issues, please talk to us. There is a new system that has just become available but may require you to install a new website for this service.

Through a generous donation from a patron, we have a number of large print romance/westerns that can be taken out. Librarian's and patron's favorites for the month that are in your library now are *Boar Island* by Nevada Barr; *We pulled Together and Won!*; *Digger and Daisy Star in a Play* by Judy Young (children's); *The Iron Hand* by Scott Chantler (teen graphic novel); DVDs – *Captain Phillip* and *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*.

The monthly winners for the 100 Club are January - Petrina Bearor, Nona Young, February - Wire Bridge Photography, Alan & Marji Ray, March - Wanda Calder. The 100 Club membership mailers will be going out next month. Please look for the information in your mailbox and call the library at 628-6561 for more information.

Please drop in and check out what we've been doing!

*Submitted: Sheila Atwood*

## **Community Churches**

New Portland Community Church News - Just a quick couple of notes today! Hope everyone is enjoying “more” spring-like weather! Gardening will be just around the corner. With the spring comes the start of our monthly church suppers. The first supper will be held on Thursday, April 20 at 5:00 pm. Watch for posters around town for the menu. It will be fun to get together after this long winter and see many familiar faces. Of course, we welcome all new faces too!

The New Portland Churches together with Fairbanks Union Churches recently met with and interviewed an individual for the position of pastor to the churches. We had a really good visit and will be interviewing another candidate very soon. Hopefully, we will find the perfect person to fill the pulpit and join our communities. These are exciting times.

Services are still being held at the West Village Church on Sunday mornings. Coffee hour starts at 10:30 am with the service following at 11:00 am. We would love to see you there. On April 23 there will be no service in New Portland. Please join us at Fairbanks Union Church in Farmington for the joint Annual Jazz service.

The ministers who will be joining us for the month of April will be April 2 – Phyllis Blackstone, April 9 – Rev Stan Wheeler, April 16 – 5:55am, Ecumenical Dawn Service on Voter Hill in Farmington, April 16 – Rev Doug Walrath, Easter Sunday, April 23 – 10:00 am jazz service at Fairbanks Union Church, no service in New Portland. Respectfully. . .

*Submitted: Nan Berry*

The Western Mountains Baptist Church will be offering a Good Friday service on April 14 at 6:30 pm and a Sunrise Service on Easter morning at 6:00 am. The early morning service will be held outside by the cross. Easter breakfast, prepared and served by WMBC men, will follow the service inside the church where everyone is welcome to get warmed up with coffee and hot chocolate. Worship service will be held at regular time: 10:00 am. Anyone is welcome to join all or some aspects of our Easter celebration.

A six week study on healthy living called the “Daniel Plan” written by Pastor Rick Warren will begin on April 7 at 5:30 pm at the church. Jean Sawtelle of New Portland will lead group members in discussions on healthy eating, exercise, changing unhealthy habits and managing a healthier lifestyle. The book and workbook will cost \$16.00. For more information or to sign up, call the church at 265-2557 or use the sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer.

Thursday evening, April 20, a group from Alabama will be holding a concert at WMBC at 6:00 pm. Coffee and snacks will be available. There is no cost to attend. If you are looking for a time of fellowship and worship, please consider joining us for the evening.

Sunday messages are recorded on CD each week for folks who are unable to attend the services. If you know of someone who would like to be added to our mailing list, please call the church or email [westernmountainbaptist@tds.net](mailto:westernmountainbaptist@tds.net) with an address. There is no cost. Currently, Pastor Tom DuBois is teaching from the book of 1 Corinthians.

Worship services are held every Sunday at 10:00 am. Nursery (birth – three years old) and Children's Church (ages four to third grade) are also held during this time. Sunday School for all ages is held each Sunday morning at 9:00 am. Coffee and snacks are available before, during and after classes. Visitors are welcome. God bless.

*Submitted: Crystal Fitch*



# The New Portlander

Established July 1994

901 River Road  
New Portland, Maine 04961

BULK RATE  
US POSTAGE  
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New Portland, ME  
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NEW PORTLAND MAINE 04961

NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Town Office 8:00 am - Noon						
2	3	4 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	5 School Board Meeting 6:00 pm Planning Board Meeting 6:30 pm	6	7	8 Children's Hour NPCL 9:00 am Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers 6:30 pm
9	10	11 Fire Department Meeting - 6:30 pm Library Board of Trustees Meeting - 6:00 pm	12 New Portland Water District at 7:00 pm at Fire Station	13 Knit Wits & Happy Hookers NPCL - 10:00 am	14	1
16	17 Patriots Day Town Office Closed 6:30 pm Selectmen's Meeting	18	19	20 Salt Shed Committee Meeting - 6:30 pm Community Room at the fire station Deadline at 4:00 pm New Portlander	21	22
23	24	25 Fire Department Meeting - 6:30 pm	26	27 Knit Wits & Happy Hookers NPCL - 10:00 am	28	29
30						

DOUG KEHR PHOTO

