



NEW PORTLANDER

INFORMATION IS THE CURRENCY OF DEMOCRACY — THOMAS JEFFERSON

The Town of New Portland is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.

DOUG KERR PHOTO

E-mail: nwprtld@tds.net | Mailing Address: Town of New Portland, 901 River Road, New Portland, Maine 04961
Visit the Town of New Portland's web page at newportlandmaine.org

PUBLICATION VOLUME 24 • NUMBER 2 • AUGUST 1, 2017

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 11 am - 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**
No Sundays until September
Saturday and Tuesday 9am - noon
Wednesday and Thursday 4pm - 6pm
- **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

Selectmen

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for June 06, 2017

Selectmen Present: Raymond Poulin, Wayne Rundlett, Michael Senecal; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Mike Malesky, Judi Wills, Ron Lindner-Demers, John Demers-Lindner, Kristen Mitchell, Brian Rundlett, Marilyn Gorman, Gary Agren, Kip Poulin

Mike Senecal called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed and motioned to accept meeting minutes as written from May 2 and May 15, 2017. All were in favor.

Mike Malesky updated the Board of Selectmen on his current new valuation for the 2017 tax year.

Gary Agren updated the board members on the scheduling of grading the roads. He also discussed with the board roads that were scheduled for culvert work to be done. Flailing has been done and there will be more needing to be done. Gary briefed the board on the surveying work to be done on Hancock Pond Road, which was scheduled for the upcoming week. There was a discussion regarding complaints for brush cutting that was done.

Kip Poulin updated the board on the status of the six by six that was ordered. Year to date the fire department has had 40 calls. He updated the board on response programs and a new program with which the department has decided to enter. Kip also updated the board on the status of vehicle maintenance.

Kristen Mitchell presented appointment papers to the board for the Recreation Department. Two were new and two were just to update the current paperwork on file.

Mike Senecal motioned to appoint Stacie Rundlett to the Recreation Board, Raymond seconded and all were in favor. Mike Senecal motioned to appoint Heather Hilensky to the Recreation Board, Raymond seconded and all were in favor. Mike Senecal motioned to appoint Bobbi-Sue Harrington to the Recreation Board, there was no second and no discussion on the matter.

Mike Senecal motioned to appoint Judi Wills to the Recreation Board, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.

Kristen Mitchell presented warrants regarding the school budget vote for the Board of Selectmen to review and sign. All board members did so.

Brian Rundlett discussed with the Board of Selectmen additional equipment for Maine EMS that is needed. Mike Senecal will address the issue with Brian.

Judi Wills brought to the Board of Selectmen the acceptance of the Comprehensive Plan from the State of Maine. There was a brief discussion regarding the work done.

Mike Senecal read aloud a letter requesting a children at play sign that was sent to him as the chairman of the board. There was a brief discussion on the matter. Stacie will email D.O.T. and see what the protocol is since River Road and School Street or Route 146 is a state highway.

Mike Senecal read aloud a letter from the State of Maine D.O.T. to notify the town that there will be repairs done to the Proctor Brook Bridge in the summer of **2018**, and there will only be one lane of traffic from July to September.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

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

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for June 19, 2017

Selectmen Present: Wayne Rundlett, Michael Senecal, Raymond Poulin (absent, at another meeting); Present: Stacie Rundlett, Mike Malesky, Judi Wills, Marilyn Gorman, Brian Rundlett, Bobbi-Sue Harrington, Heather Hilenski, Danika Bates

Mike Senecal called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed and motioned to accept meeting minutes as written from June 02, 2017. Wayne motioned to accept them as written and Mike Senecal seconded, all were in favor.

Mike Senecal recognized Bobbi-Sue Harrington to discuss her concerns of issues at the Wire Bridge. There was a discussion regarding a porta-potty and trash cans at the Wire Bridge. She discussed with the board she had inquired about prices for trash pickup and a porta-potty to be at the Wire Bridge. There was a lengthy discussion regarding her concerns and how the Wire Bridge Memorial Park Group try to deal with these issues. Stacie reminded everyone that none of these expenditures had been budgeted. And there were some discussions regarding concerns of vandalism in our area. Mike Senecal asked that the Wire Bridge Memorial Park Group get together and try to make a written plan, as a group. Stacie clarified with those present that the mowing of the field already has a scheduled mowing for free for this summer of 2017. The trash pickup being considered could also be picked up for free, if the board chose to have trash cans at the Wire Bridge. This would eliminate the need to expend any funds for these items which had not been budgeted. The Wire Bridge Memorial Park Group did not unanimously agree to having trash cans and a porta-potty at the Wire Bridge area. Stacie had suggested if Bobbi-Sue and Heather felt

strongly about those things, they would need to get authorization from the Board of Selectmen and then the Board of Selectmen would have to figure out from which budget lines the funds would be expended. Bobbi-Sue and Heather felt that there were funds in the Recreation Committee line and any expenditures for the area this year could be paid for from that line. Stacie clarified that this project is not a Recreation Committee project and funds should come from some other line or try to figure out a different way to address the issue without expending any funds. The Wire Bridge Memorial Park Group members who were in attendance agreed to have an additional meeting on Thursday, June 29 at 6:30 pm to work on a plan for the proposed park area for this year.

Mike Senecal motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A) to discuss personnel matters, Wayne seconded and all were in favor. The board entered into executive session at 7:04 pm. The board exited the executive session at 7:26 pm. No decisions were made.

Mike Malesky brought before the board that the State of Maine budget was still on hold. There was some discussion about this matter, and it was important to hold off on committing the taxes until the State's budget was finalized. Raymond had arrived from his other meeting. Mike Malesky presented spreadsheets to the board on valuations lost and gained. There was a discussion regarding figures for 2017 tax year commitment. No decisions were made at this time.

Raymond Poulin briefed the other board members on the meeting that he attended about concerns from towns in RSU 74.

Mike Senecal nominated Judi Wills as chairman of the Recreation Board. Raymond seconded and all were in favor.

Mike Senecal nominated Stacie Rundlett as chairman of the Wire Bridge Memorial Park Group. Wayne seconded and all were in favor.

Mike Senecal motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A) to discuss personnel matters, Wayne seconded and all were in favor. The board entered into executive session at 8:13 pm. The board exited executive session at 8:24 pm. No decisions were made.

Mike Senecal reminded everyone that the next scheduled Selectmen's meeting would be July 17 at 6:30 pm.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed and signed payroll warrants.

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

Meeting adjourned 8:29 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the July 17 meeting. smr

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett

NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is August 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.

New Portland Water District

For those who maybe unaware of the change, I have undertaken Andrea Reichert and Marilyn Gorman's positions for the New Portland Water District. When you are sending in your payments, please use the water district's address: PO Box 74, New Portland, ME 04961. Please DO NOT bring your payments to me at the Town Office. I wish I could accept payments at the office, but unfortunately, there is a state law that is prohibiting this.

The New Portland Water District is looking for more trustees to serve. If you are interested, the Water District meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm and are located at the Community Room / Fire Station at 911 River Road.

Submitted: Kristen Mitchell

Salt and Sand Shed Committee

Committee Meeting Minutes for June 15, 2017 at 6:30 pm. Meeting conducted by: Michael Senecal. Meeting recorded by: Michael Senecal

In Attendance: Michael Senecal, Ray Poulin, Mike Malesky, and Lewis Wills

Committee Member and Introduction: Mike Senecal opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and everyone introduced themselves.

Review of Land Building Designs: The group reviewed all the land and building options and discussed what they felt would best suit the town needs.

The group researched available property listing off a paved road (preferred) and easy access to electricity. Several parcels of land were reviewed by the committee and compared to the state sand and gravel aquifer maps.

Mike Malesky also advised the committee on his discussion with the Department of Environmental Protection and the process to receive a waiver was not difficult if the building met all requirements. The absolute denials of receiving a waiver being 300' from a water well and water protection area.

The group also reviewed the desired building specification again as listed the last meeting.

Homework: 1. Mike Senecal will follow up with Solon and get a rough estimate of the cost to build their salt and sand shed and call Butler Buildings for a quote for a 80' x 100' building. 2. Mike Malesky and Lewis Wills will follow up with land owner about parcels of land.

Next Meeting: July 20 at 6:30 pm

Draft Copy of Minutes

Submitted: Mike Senecal

RSU 74 / School Board

The July board meeting was held on July 19 at Carrabec Community School. As the meeting was quite lengthy, nearly four hours, I haven't attempted to recapture every bit of discussion but have instead attempted to summarize.

Welcome of new Board members (administration of oath to any in need). Mike Tracy welcomed people to the board meeting, his first as superintendent of RSU74. Five new members joined the board: Grace Carreiro, Anson; Judith Dunphy, Anson; Larry Dunphy, Embden; Robert Dunphy, Embden; Robert Lindblom, Solon.

To see if the Board will elect the Board chair and vice chair. This will be a written ballot: Two people were nominated for chair, Bobby Sue Harrington and Robert Demchak. Mr. Demchak was elected chair by a vote of 9-4-1. Troy Dunphy received one write-in vote. Two people were nominated for vice chair, Bobby Sue Harrington and Troy Dunphy. Troy was elected vice chair by a vote of 12-3.

To see if the Board will approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 7, 2017: The minutes were approved.

Superintendent Report: Mr. Tracy told the board that once the legislature wrapped up the state budget, RSU 74 received about \$244,000 in additional funding. His recommendation was for the board to keep half of that amount as carryover and give the other half to the towns as tax relief. The board voted to do this, though some board members and community members expressed the view that all the money should go back to taxpayers, or at the very least more than fifty percent should be returned. Mr. Tracy updated the board about a meeting he recently attended with the selectmen from the towns of RSU 74, 13, and 59. The idea of an AOS is once again alive. In an AOS, school systems maintain their local control, but they share administrative services like superintendent, special ed director, transportation, etc. The state government is offering financial incentives to encourage collaboration among school districts.

Appointments and recent staff hirings: Erik Carey - 8th Grade Boys Soccer Coach - CCS 2017-18- \$1,972 stipend; Jessie Cates - Title 1 Summer Reading Program Instructor at Solon - \$750 stipend; Bethany Sevey - CHS Yearbook Advisor 2017-18; Kirk Robinson - CHS Cross Country Coach 2017-18; Dean Gamble - CHS Varsity Golf Coach- 2017-18; Luke Ellis - CHS Boys; Tennis Coach - 2017-18; Jack Kaplan - All three sections of Willpower 2017-18; Chudala Holden - IEP Coordinator - 2017-18; Grace Cram - IEP Coordinator - 2017-18; Mary Luce - 504 Coordinator - 2017-18; Nate Stubbert - Athletic Director - 2017-18 - \$16,000 stipend; Candy Lebeau = CCS yearbook

Nominations: Patricia Reid - English Teacher - CHS; Jennifer Hebert - Kindergarten Teacher at G.S.S; Shawna Cotton - CCS Special Ed.

Resignations: Jessica Milligan – School Psychologist; Carol Campbell – Title 1 Summer Reading Program Instructor at Solon; Carly Cooper – Special Education Teacher; Joanna St. Germain – CHS English Teacher

Committees: The board's negotiations committee met on June 20, and the admin hiring committee met during June.

Citizens comments on agenda items: Several citizens spoke to urge the board to give more money back to taxpayers. Several citizens spoke, reserving the right to comment later in the meeting when the proposal to contract services for transportation director came up. Some wished to speak about the special ed director position. One citizen asked for clarification as to whether the Athletic Director position was a grade 6-12 position or a 7-12 position.

To see if the Board will approve the hiring of Thomas Desjardins as the CCS K-8 principal: Mr. Tracy and a board member spoke highly of Mr. Desjardins, and he was approved as CCS principal. Mr. Desjardins was later approved as a special ed coordinator.

To see if the Board will approve STEM Coach contracted services and program: Kathy Bertini was approved as STEM coach. RSUs 13, 59, and 74 wrote a grant that awards the districts' money to fund a shared STEM program. RSU 74 is the fiscal agent.

To see if the Board will approve the second reading of the Graduation policy IKF: The policy was approved after much discussion. Board members expressed curiosity and some skepticism about Proficiency Based Education and multiple pathways to meet standards. They raised questions regarding who was ultimately accountable. This appears to be a topic the board will devote much time to during 2017-2018.

To see if the Board will approve the evaluation plan: This was tabled.

To see if the Board will listen to Jean Butler give an overview of our Every Student Succeeds Act Grant application: The board voted to listen, and Jean gave an overview of the ESEA grant.

To see if the Board will approve the contracted services for RSU #74 Transportation Director: This item prompted a great deal of discussion. The board was considering whether to enter into a contract with Chris Roy to be RSU 74 transportation director. Mr. Roy is the transportation director for RSU 59, and he drives a bus for that district. The agreement was strictly between Chris and RSU 74 and was not an agreement between RSU 74 and RSU 59. Some citizens and board members expressed concern since Chris was committed to RSU 59, he might not have enough time to give to RSU 74, or it could be difficult for him to respond quickly enough if there was a major issue in RSU 74. Others were of the opinion that it can be made to work, while there may be some bumps along the way, no obstacles were insurmountable. Chris Roy expressed confidence the arrangement can work. He said in the event it became clear to him after a few months that it was not working, he would resign. The board approved the plan

8-6. The board also approved a stipend for Lorie Agren to be facilities coordinator, and a stipend for Superintendent Tracy to serve as facilities director.

To see if the Board will approve the contracted services for RSU #74 Special Ed Director: Another topic which generated much discussion was the plan for RSU 74 to share a special ed director with RSU 59. Similar to the previous agenda item, there was concern from some citizens that RSU 74 would not benefit from the arrangement in which the director will be 20% RSU 74, and 80% RSU 59. To compensate for the reduction from a 100% director to a 20% director, several individuals will receive stipends to be special ed coordinators. If there is a situation that needs immediate attention when Nikki is out of the district, Tom Desjardins will be called upon. The board voted on the plan, and the vote was 7-7. Since there wasn't a majority, the vote failed. Several board members wished to continue the discussion. Mr. Tracy urged the members to reconsider their vote. After more discussion, another vote was held. The 20% director plan passed by a vote of 11-3.

To see if the Board will authorize the Superintendent of Schools / designee to purchase a school van up to the total cost of \$17,000.00: tabled

To see if the Board will approve the purchase of two buses, one of which will be handicap accessible: tabled

To see if the Board will approve the selling of three buses: The board voted to purchase two buses, not three.

To see if the Board will approve the New Board Member training through MSMA: A training will be scheduled.

Ratifying the Teacher Contract: The board went into executive session to discuss the proposed teacher collective bargaining agreement for 2017-2020. When the board returned from executive session, they voted to approve. (The association had previously voted to approve earlier in the week.)

To see if the Board will have a discussion surrounding the Selectmen meeting concerning possible AOS: There will be a joint meeting of the RSU 13-59-74 school boards on July 31. There will be meeting of the selectmen of the towns of RSU 13-59-74 on September 20.

To see if the Board will discuss Homecoming. CHS Homecoming is scheduled for September 30.

Athletic Director: The athletic director position will be a grades 6-12 position.

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 9:47.

Other ... The next board meeting will be August 2 at Carrabec Community School. I will not be attending this one, so no notes - sorry. When I scheduled my visit to see my parents, the August board meeting was set to be held later in the month in New Portland. At the June board meeting, the board opted to change the date/location of the August meeting. I did not opt to change the dates of my vacation.

Submitted: Dave Ela, President of Carrabec Educational Association



Summer 2017



New Portland Library

The library hours continue to be Saturdays 9:00 am -12:00 pm, Tuesdays 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Wednesdays 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Thursdays 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

There will not be a Children's Hour this month.

Every Tuesday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm is "Get Together Day" - Thank you to all who filled out the survey which we are conducting to discover senior programming needs. If you did not fill one out and would like to do so, you can pick up a copy at the library.

On Thursday, August 10 and August 24 at 10:00 am the Knitwits and Happy Hookers will meet at the library.

On Wednesday, August 9 at 5:30 – 7:00 pm There will be a "Pie Social" at the library; come and enjoy a piece of homemade pie, \$3 a slice, with lots of ice cream, \$4. Enjoy dessert, visit with neighbors and see the new additions to the library.

From the Ice Cream Social: Congratulations to Lorraine Savage for the Summer Beach Bag drawing and to Dave Weiland for the Renys gift certificate in the veterans drawing. Enjoy!

Winners in our 60 Club: For June - 1 - Kenneth Atwood, 2 - Kay & Alan Michka, 3 - Anonymous. For July – 1 - Sophie Green, 2 -- Betty Cobb, 3 - Petrina Bearor. Congratulations! If you have not yet joined the 60 Club, we have a few more spots!

Youth Volunteer at New Portland Community Library. In case you haven't noticed when you have been in the library, we have had a young volunteer helping out. Yvonne just completed a community service project for her yearly school requirement this past semester. She has shelved books, relabeled the children's sections, set up several displays, helped with children's hour, managed the front desk, and helped with fundraisers. She has been busy completing her ten hours of service with us. She has given us a helping hand when we needed it, and all members of the library board want to thank her and other volunteers for all the help they have given us. If you know of a young volunteer (or even an older one) who would like to volunteer, please let the library director know. We will meet with the volunteer, find out what skills they would like to work on and complete any paperwork necessary for their class, their resumé, or some other organization or parent.

Our "Penny Drive" - We are still trying to collect a mile of pennies. At this time, we are just shy of a half mile of pennies. So, keep us mind next time you have a hand full of change, maybe you can help add a foot or two! The jar is at the library desk.

Submitted: Rosemary Drosky

Recreational Committee

New Portland Recreation Meeting minutes for July 6, 2017
Present: Heather Hilenski, Stacie Rundlett, Judi Wills (chair person), Bobbi Sue Harrington (unable to attend).

Discussion: The group shared ideas and visions of what the committee could do for activities in the community. There was a discussion on what the title "Recreation Committee implies and just what is the function of the committee.

We do not have enough resources to do sports programs, swim programs and things of this sort. It was established that this group would organize events in which the community can participate. Ideas had been suggested for some activities that were quite interesting for both children and adults.

But there was discussion that at this time it was not what this committee felt they could do.

Some ideas which were suggested that worked with this group were 1.) continue Fall Festival, with the events done in the past and some new ideas. Looking at October 21, 2017, more information to come; 2.) Trunk or Treat will happen this year. More information to come with details of where, when and what is needed. Date at this time will be Friday, October 27, again more info to come. Heidi Tolman and Lorie Agren will be organizing this. Young and old welcome; 3.) community dinner will be held again this year. This is a free meal served to New Portland citizens by the Selectmen. This is a time for citizens to meet the Selectmen and enjoy their spirit of serving in this town. This will be held December 3, 2017. More information to come; 4.) a suggestion was made for a cook out and a drive in movie. More discussion will be held at next meeting; 5.) also, an interest in a "paint night" was mentioned. More research on this to see if there is enough interest.

Funds are raised for the Recreation Committee at town meeting. The committee feels the activities we try to organize and schedule to do, should not cost the citizens to participate. The funds raised are what we use to engage all people of all ages to come together as a community and enjoy the time.

Submitted: Judi Wills

Wire Bridge Park Project

Wire Bridge Park Project Meeting was held on May 17, 2017
Present: Marilyn Gorman, Judi Wills, Stacie Rundlett, Heather Hilenski, Bobbi-Sue Harrington, Alison Thayer, Wayne Rundlett
Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.

There was a brief discussion regarding the possibilities of a grant through Land and Water Conservation Fund. The grant application needs to be turned in by November 2017.

Stacie shared with the group all the information which she obtained during her meeting with Doug Beck from Maine Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. She learned the first step was to obtain a landscape architect. She was waiting for contact information for Cynthia Orcutt, who has worked with Kingfield on projects.

There was a brief discussion about getting people involved and students who need community service hours.

There were lots of discussions on ideas for the park. Stacie presented a few photos of simple park ideas that keep the natural affect. All present agreed to not incorporate the typical playground type equipment.

There was a brief discussion regarding the name of the park. Stacie thought that it should reflect the name of the group which had donated the land to the town, the Midget League. There was some question whether this would be appropriate.

There was a brief discussion regarding residents who might have knowledge and want to assist with the grant writing component of this project.

The group left with the understanding that at the next meeting all would have more ideas about what they might like to have within this park.

Next meeting scheduled for June 8 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

These minutes were approved by the group at the June 8 meeting. Smr

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett

Summer 2017



Lexington Highland Historical Society

On Saturday, August 12 the History House is open from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. There will be displays of Pelton paintings on loan to the society. Mr. Pelton was a traveling artist who painted scenes of Lexington and Highland during the 1930's and 1940's which are now valued collectors' items. Local artists and crafts people (as well as the public) are invited to exhibit this event. Several Lexington Highland Historical Society's exhibits will be featured. A noon time barbecue will be available at a minimal price.

On August 27, the LHHS meeting will take place at the History House at 6:00 pm. The program will be the recognizing of Lexington and Highland Veterans and their contributions to the freedoms we all share.

A side note: To make our 1890's History House more authentic we are hoping for a donation of an early wooden wall telephone that would have typically been installed in Lexington and Highland farms.

Submitted: Barbara W. Pinkham

New Portland Alumni Association

The annual meeting of the New Portland Alumni Association will be held on Saturday, August 19, 2017. This date was set by the general membership vote at the August 2016 meeting. This August meeting will be held at the Community Room of the New Portland Fire Department, with registration starting at 10:00 am with the business meeting beginning at 11:00 am which will be followed by the luncheon. There will be no full meal, only finger-foods to be provided by those attending. Punch, iced tea and coffee will be provided by the New Portland Alumni Association. There will be a Chinese Auction and 50/50 drawing for those in attendance. The newsletter with registration form was mailed July 8, 2017. We hope you will join us. For information, please call Sonny Collins at 684-4510 or Jo at 458-5920.

Submitted: Jo Dunphy, Secretary New Portland Alumni Association

Community Churches

New Portland Community Church News August 2017: This spring the New Portland Churches together with Fairbanks Union Church in Farmington, met with and interviewed an individual for the position of pastor to the churches. We are now proud to announce that the churches, MATE, and the Presbytery of New England, have chosen Rothea Cornelius to be the next minister of these churches. Rothea (pronounced Row-tee-uh), or Thea (Tee-uh) as she likes to be called, will be joining us sometime in August or September. Thea is young and energetic and will be a wonderful addition to our communities. Thea will also be the Coordinator for Mission at the Eastward which, among other things, is responsible for bringing the work groups which join us every summer for work with North Parish Housing. We look forward to welcoming her here.

Church suppers continue to be well attended and fun. Please join us on August 17 for Chicken and Gravy on a Biscuit. It's always delicious!

Just a reminder that the Wire Bridge Thrift Store is open by appointment. If you need anything from the thrift store please do not hesitate to call 491-2620 or 399-3742.

Services are being held at the North Village Church on Sunday mornings until the end of September. Coffee hour starts at 10:30 with the service following at 11:00 am. We would love to see you there.

As we are not sure exactly when Thea will be joining us and there may be some Sundays that ministers will be announced at a later date. August 6 - Rev Doug Walrath, August 13 - Rev Stan Wheeler. Respectfully...

Submitted: Nan Berry

How summer is flying by! The Western Mountains Baptist Church has had a joyful and fulfilling summer, so far. What follows is a list of several updates from some of the recent activities we have been blessed to be a part.

In June, 135 individuals made good use of the opportunity to receive free food from the Good Shepherd Food Mobile. It was during one of those scorching hot days. Folks from 12 different towns picked up fresh fruits and vegetables, canned goods, package items such as pasta, oatmeal, pancake mixes and a variety of soups. In addition to food, free LED light bulbs were handed out from Efficiency Maine. A grant from People's United Community Foundation in Bridgeport Connecticut made this event possible by providing money to Good Shepherd to purchase the food. We look forward to holding a similar event later in the year.

The first annual Western Mountains Baptist Church scholarship was made available to a graduating student from either Mt. Abram High School or Carrabec High School. A team of folks from WMBC had to make a tough choice from the eight essays submitted. They were looking for a student who showed

academic and personal potential and provided service to their community. The 2017 winner of the \$1000 WMBC scholarship is Xavier Romanowski from Strong. We congratulate Xavier not only for writing a winning essay but also for receiving an early acceptance into the Engineering Program at the University of Maine in Orono. Join us in praying for the success of this committed and enthusiastic young man as he pursues his studies and profession.

Vacation Bible School 2017 had a weekly total of 29 youngsters attend and engage in Bible stories, cool songs, crafts, games and snacks. It appeared all the children enjoyed their week as much as the diligent and dedicated workers did. Some of the young participants excitedly show cased a few of their lively hand clapping VBS songs during the following worship service which brought smiles to every face in the congregation. The VBS volunteers are already talking about next summer's program.

June 25, Pastor Tom baptized five people who were eager and ready to publicly proclaim their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The celebration took place in North Anson in the Kennebec River. Ages ranged from 8 to 70. If being baptized in the Christian faith is something you would like to do, please call the church to discuss with Pastor Tom, 265-2557. For those interested, there is an inside baptismal available at WMBC if anyone chooses warmer water.

On the Saturday of Kingfield Days, volunteers from WMBC served over 400 bags of free popcorn and as many son-cones to children and adults who stopped by our section of Depot Street. Children also enjoyed bouncing and playing in the available bounce houses. One volunteer, Bryce Dunphy of New Portland, who provided safety patrol at the entrance of one of the bounce houses, was asked how he enjoyed his job. He replied, "It was okay. At one point I thought I was going to have to go in and rescue a kid". Apparently, everyone made it out okay before Dunphy had to take the deep dive inside. All the helpers are appreciated during this yearly event. Year after year we see working together makes and builds friendships.

If you don't belong to a local church, we invite you to check us out. We are located at 929 Carrabassett Road (Rt. 27). Sunday worship service begins at 10:00 am. Bible studies for all ages begin at 9:00 am. Coffee and refreshments are available at no charge. For more information or to talk with the pastor, please call Tom at 557-3802.

Submitted by Crystal Fitch





The New Portlander

Established July 1994

901 River Road
New Portland, Maine 04961

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
New Portland, ME
Permit No. 1

POSTAL PATRON
NEW PORTLAND MAINE 04961

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Get Together Day NPCL 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	2 School Board Meeting 6:00 pm Planning Board Meeting 6:30 pm	3	4	5 Town Office 8:00 am - noon
6	7 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	8 Get Together Day NPCL 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Library Board of Trustees Meeting - 6:00 pm Fire Department Meeting - 6:30 pm	9 Pie Social fundraiser NPCL at 5:30 - 7:00 pm New Portland Water District at 7:00 pm at Fire Station	10 Knit Wits & Happy Hookers NPCL - 10:00 am	11	12
13	14	15 Get Together Day NPCL 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	16	17 Church Supper West Village Church	18	19 New Portland Alumni Association Community Room 10:00 am
20 New Portlander Deadline at 4:00 pm	21 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	22 Get Together Day NPCL 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Fire Department Meeting - 6:30 pm	23	24 Knit Wits & Happy Hookers NPCL - 10:00 am	25	26
27	28	29 Get Together Day NPCL 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	30	31		

NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR AUGUST 2017

DOUG KERR PHOTO

