Selectmen

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for July 17, 2017

Selectmen Present: Wayne Rundlett, Michael Senecal, Raymond Poulin; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Mike Malesky, Judi Wills, Mike Tracy, Bobbi-Sue Harrington

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 19, 2017. Wayne motioned to accept them as written, and Mike Senecal seconded; all were in favor.

Mike Senecal recognizes Mike Tracy, MSAD/RSU #74 superintendent who introduces himself to the board and all in attendance. Mike Tracy discusses his ideas on working with the towns within the MSAD/RSU #74 district. There was also a discussion regarding an Alternative Organizational Structure (AOS).

Raymond motioned for the Board of Selectmen to sign a document for the MSAD #74 school board members stating that the New Portland Board of Selectmen supported the establishment of an interlocal agreement to form an Alternative Organizational Structure (AOS) between MSAD/RSU #79, MSAD/RSU #74 and MSAD #13. Mike Senecal seconded, and all were in favor. The board signed the resolution document.

Mike Malesky updated the board on status of assessing and the tax commitment. He presented a letter which would be mailed out to the taxpayers with their tax bills to the board for review. Mike Malesky shared with the board that he thought the mil rate would stay stable this year. He needed to finalize a few things, and then he would be ready to commit the taxes with the board’s approval. The board praised Mike Malesky for the challenging work he has been doing.

Mike Senecal asked Bobbi-Sue Harrington to share with the board why she wanted to be a part of the Recreation Committee. There was a discussion amongst Bobbi-Sue, the Board of Selectmen, and Judi Wills, chairman of Recreation Committee. Mike Senecal motioned to nominate Bobbi-Sue Harrington to be on the Recreation Committee. Raymond seconded, and all were in favor. Stacie would notify Kristen to have papers drawn to make it official.
There was a discussion regarding the Wire Bridge Memorial Park Group. Mike Senecal said he was purchasing trash cans to place there this weekend. There was a discussion regarding having a portable toilet at the Wire Bridge area. Mike Senecal motioned to put a portable toilet at the Wire Bridge area, using funds from the T.I.F. Raymond seconded, and all were in favor.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed and signed payroll warrants and an accounts payable warrant.

Stacie updated the board on the trainings she had later in the week.

Mike Senecal updated everyone about the scheduled Sand/Salt Shed meeting. He asked Stacie to forward him information regarding the salt invoices for the past two years. Senecal asked for Stacie to email a copy of the AOS document to him. Bobbi-Sue asked for it as well.

Mike Senecal also questioned about the Rank Choice Voting and how it would affect us as a town. Stacie would consult with Kristen and get back to him.

Meeting adjourned 7:27 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the August 1st meeting. smr

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett

RSU 74 / School Board

The August board meeting was held at the New Portland Fire Station.

Minutes: The minutes of the July board meeting were amended and approved.

Superintendent Report: Mr. Tracy shared the expenditure report with the board.

He has attended selectmen’s meetings in all RSU 74 towns, and he hopes to be a regular at those meetings in the future.

Resignation: Andrea Drumstas - social worker
Nominations: (both approved by the board) Mary Ashe - social worker, Andrew Ferrari - one year middle school teacher, CCS
Administrative Reports: 1.) Tim Richards reported that Carrabec High School is now fully staffed. Fall sports begin on Monday. The portable classroom is now gone. CHS Open House will be held on September 12. 2.) Scott Hall and his staff are finishing up summer work and preparing for the upcoming year. 3.) Tom Desjardins thanked the board for approving Mr. Ferrari, and said that CCS was now fully staffed. 4.) Nikki Richardson said that the local entitlement has been submitted and approved.

Committees: None have met recently.
Citizens: No one spoke.

Evaluation Plan: Mr. Tracy shared the evaluation plan with the board and recommended they approve it for 17-18. He said that while he recommended its approval for the coming school year, he has plans to make changes in the future. In particular, he feels the evaluation plan focuses too heavily on student testing and student data. In general, he seemed to have more faith in supervisor ratings than student data when judging teacher performance. While he did express reservations about the current system, he added that he was sensitive to the work that has been done so far and valued the efforts which had been made to create the current system. A board member expressed concern about teachers having students take the NWEA multiple times. Mr. Tracy shared that concern. Mr. Tracy intends to seek administrative and teacher input and participation in changing the evaluation system in years to come. The evaluation plan was approved for 2017-2018.

Purchase of two buses: The bid from Dattco and O’Connor. The Dattco buses were gas, and O’Connor were diesel. The board opted for the gas buses, but are going to seek more bids. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Buying a van: During budget season, this topic inspired much debate and discussion. The board approved the purchase of a 2016 van for $25,800.

Tax Assessments: At the July meeting, Mr. Tracy told the board as a result of the state budget deal, RSU 74 would receive $244,000 in additional funding. The board voted to keep half of that amount and give the other half to the towns for tax relief. At the time of that vote, the superintendent and board were of the impression that the towns would receive the following amounts: Anson = $33,407; Embden = $45,946; New Portland = $18,571; Solon = $24,176. Those numbers were found on the DOE website. Unfortunately, those numbers turned out to be incorrect. The revised totals: Anson = $52,026; Embden = $6,529; New Portland = $27,194; Solon = $36,351. This created much discussion and debate. The board considered dispersing the money to the towns in the amounts they thought were accurate at the July meeting. They considered dispersing the money to the towns in the revised amounts, that severely disadvantaged Embden.
They also considered keeping the revised amounts, but giving Embden $30,000 from the 50% of the $244,000 that RSU 74 kept. The board voted to accept the first set of numbers, the numbers they thought were accurate in July.

Interim Sixth Grade Teacher: Mr. Tracy said that he added this item to the agenda because several board members had contacted him with concerns about the class size of sixth grade, 54 students with two teachers. He said that while the number was a bit high; he did not feel that it was necessary to add a third sixth grade teacher. He reported that Jean Butler and Tom Desjardins agreed with this assessment. Previous years’ student-teacher ratios for sixth grade were shared. The board voted 9-4 to add a third sixth grade teacher for 17-18.

ADHOC Committee: Bob Demchak, Bobby Sue Harrington, Larry Dunphy, and Laura Layman will be part of the ADHOC committee that will focus on collaboration with neighboring school districts.

Board Committees: The board members received their committee assignments.

Executive Session: The last item was an executive session. I was told no action was anticipated following the executive session, so I did not stay.

Next board meeting September 6 at Carrabec High School.

Submitted: Dave Ela, President of Carrabec Educational Association

New Portland Library

Congratulations! Winners in the August 60 Club Drawing - First Place - Bernard Newell Trucking, Second Place - Ezra Pease, Third Place - Jennifer and Bryan McNaney.

We are happy to say that our library visitors have increased. But we’re not so happy that we are losing books and many DVD’s. Our books and DVDs are on loan for 2 weeks. There is no overdue charge. Unfortunately, this is being abused by patrons who have had them for months. Many of our DVDs are donated but the newer ones we purchase. We are notifying patrons but to no avail, so we are reminding or patrons it is theft to not return these. So please take the time to look through your and your children’s DVD and book collections for those borrowed from the library. We do not have the budget to keep replacing these. In the future, we may have to bill for non-returned movies and books. There is a drop box by the library door which can be used anytime. Please help.

Thanks to all who baked pies and to all who were at the library to enjoy them on the August 9 pie social.

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

Every Tuesday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm - Get Together Day. Thank you to all who filled out the survey 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.

September 14 and 28 Thursday 10:00 am - Knitwits and Happy Hookers. All are welcome even if you can’t hook or knit!

We are making plans for the Fall Festival. If you have a special talent or an idea you would like to share please contact the library.

Penny Drive - We are still trying to collect a mile of pennies. We are at 1/2 mile. Keep us mind next time you have a hand full of change, maybe you can help add a foot or two! There is a jar at the library desk and Tindall’s Country Store and Dam Diner.

From our librarian - new books - Camino Island by John Grisham, Man Overboard by J. A. Jance.

New dvd: Hidden Figures.

Note: Beginning on September 10 the library hours will be as follows: Saturday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Sunday 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Tuesday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Wednesday 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Thursday 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

Submitted: Rosemary Drosky

Recreational Committee

New Portland Recreation Committee meeting was held August 3, 2017. Activities were planned for the community and neighbors’ Fall Festival on October 21, 2017.

October Fall Festival ideas: 1.) pumpkin decorating, an obstacle course to be set up with challenges for children. Heather Hilenski is in charge of this event, lots of ideas to challenge all, 2.) bounce house will be there again this year, lots of fun. 3.) face painting will be done again this year, Christeen Mudgett, who did this last year with amazing paintings. 4.) pie contest, we ask all entries be at Community Room by 10:00 am on the October 21. Contestants need to make sure their name is on their entry. Judging will be done at 11:00 am; winners will be announced that day. 5.) fry pan toss will also be done again this year. There will be an adult size pan for the adults to toss. This year we will have a small pan for children allowing them to do the event, also.

Scarecrow Contest: theme for this year is - favorite slasher - all entries need to be up by October 19, 2017. Judging will be done on the October 20. Make sure contestants put their entry into the box at Town Office with the name of person who did the scarecrow with phone number. If there is a name for the scarecrow put that down, too. Winners will be announced on the October 21.
Trunk or Treat: Lorie Agren and Heidi Tolman for more info in September New Portlander.
Donations: Coins for Lights. The lights will be to decorate the Wire Bridge. A donation can is at the Town Office.
November: Wire Bridge, lighting of Christmas lights and carols.
December: Community dinner, December 3. Selectmen will be serving. More info will follow in the New Portlander in November. More plans for next year will be coming out in January of 2018.
Calendar of citizens who have lived in New Portland longest for a 2017 future project.
Garden tour 2018 - Marilyn Gorman will organize. Community citizens open their yards and gardens to be toured. Map will be given as people sign up for tour. This can be done allowing for individuals to follow the map. Time frame? Followed by a luncheon at community room. Other ideas for 2017-2018 will be posted in next New Portlander. Please contact Recreation Committee if you have an idea.
Other thoughts – for 2017-2018: T-shirts with the Wire Bridge, celebrating the history; bumper stickers a cemetery tour or find the oldest burial - 2018; possible house tours – 2018.

Submitted: Judi Wills

Community Churches

The Western Mountains Baptist Church's worship service is held every Sunday at 10:00 am. During worship service there is an optional Children's Church available from nursery up to grade four. Sunday school classes are available for all ages including adults at 9:00 am. Free coffee and snacks are provided before and after church to encourage building relationships with one another. To learn more about Sunday school feel free to call our Rosie at 779-4524.

Immediately following the worship service (at approximately 11:00 am) on September 17, there will be a potluck fellowship luncheon. If you would like, bring a dish to share (not a requirement). This will be a barbecue themed potluck. Everyone is welcomed to join us for good food and to visit or make new friends.

The Ladies Walking Group continues to meet at the church on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm. During the bad/cold weather the ladies do exercise or walking videos inside the church. All ages and levels of fitness are encouraged to participate. For more information call or text Crystal at 491-7433.

Every Monday evening, there is a men's Bible study held at the church at 5:30 pm. This group is open to any man, at any age or stage of spiritual growth; you do not have to attend WMBC to be welcomed. Call 265-2698, Jean Boucher, for more information or if transportation is needed.

Mark your calendars now. The evening of September 29, we will be holding a drive-in movie again this year. Time and movie have not been determined yet, so keep your eyes and ears open. The information is sure to be posted on the sign at the entrance to WMBC. There is no charge. Free popcorn (and possibly more goodies) will be provided. As time gets closer, you can call the church at 265-2557 or visit our facebook page for updated information.

“The Daniel Plan” support group meets every month on the third Friday at 5:30 pm. Discussion is held on topics from the book written by Rick Warren and how it applies in our own personal lives. Anyone interested in learning about and being encouraged to enjoy a healthier lifestyle please consider showing up at the next meeting on Friday, September 15 at 5:30 pm. This small group has had a combined weight loss of more than 60 pounds since April. Participants state they are experiencing more energy, overall they feel better, and they are getting good reports from their health care providers. Call Jean Sawtell at 628-3331 to learn more the Daniel Plan and the monthly encouragement group.

Pastor Tom DuBois can be reached at 557-3802 or email: pastorwmbc@gmail.com. He welcomes any questions or concerns folks have about their spiritual growth and welcomes any prayer concerns. He does hold office hours at the church and is willing to set up one on one meetings. Until next month. . .

Submitted by Crystal Fitch
New Portland Lions Club presents the...

85th Annual Agricultural Fair &
22nd Annual Maine Crafts Festival

September 15-17, 2017
State Route 146, N. New Portland, Maine 04961

Fair Proceeds Support Community Needs

$50 Cash Drawing
Friday, Saturday & Sunday
Midway by Miller Amusements

8th Annual George Beane Lumberjack Competition

SUNDAY • 11 AM

Competition between professional lumberjacks

EVENTS:
- Bow Saw
- Cross Cut
- Axe Throw
- Single Buck
- Underhand (horizontal) Chop
- Standing Block Chop
- Pole Fell

Wrestling (IEW) brought to you by STAN’S FRENCH FRIES

Gold Star Contributors to the Fair:

- Fineline Paving .......................................................... 696-8805
- T.R. Dillion Logging .................................................. 696-8173
- Frost Cedar Products .................................................. 566-5912
- Hardy Motorsports .................................................... 634-3452
- Williams General Store .............................................. 672-5547
- Valley Gas & Oil Co .................................................... 265-5443
- The Family Freeze, Inc............................................. www.familyfreeze.com
- Frank Martin Sons, Inc ............................................. 834-3171
- The Bent Fender ....................................................... 628-4624
- A Maine Farmhouse Gift Shop ................................ 635-2695
- North Anson Self Storage ......................................... 635-2695
- Mr. & Mrs. R. W. Horne ........................................... 696-3359
- Skowhegan Savings Bank ......................................... 696-3359
- Taylor’s Drug Store ................................................... 696-3935
- Sappi
- Pinkham’s Market ...................................................... 635-2503
- Height Motors ............................................................ 474-3371
- Whittmore & Sons ..................................................... 474-2591
- Subway ........................................................................... 696-4400
- Bob’s Cash Fuel, Inc..................................................... 696-3040
- Cobb’s Pines Pond Camps ........................................ 628-2819
- Merle L. Lloyd & Sons ............................................... 696-3084
- Mike Witham Trucking ............................................... 635-2721
- Motor Supply Co/Graffan’s Inc ................................... 474-7075

- THANKS FOR YOUR HELP -

- Mike Malesky Surveying ............................................. 635-2609
- Fenwick Construction ................................................ 265-2018
- Ms. Cathy Hinman

Pig Scramble
Sunday at 10:00 am Ages 4-6; 7-8; 9-10
Must Pre-register at 9:00 AM on Sunday
Cost is $3.00 EACH ENTRY

New Portland Lions thank you
for the donation of a chain saw, a prize to some lucky fair goer and the use of one new tractor.
**How Your Lions Help Your Community**

- They do eye glass screening for Kindergartners in local schools
- They give eye glasses to people who qualify
- They recycle old and broken glasses, sun glasses, hearing aids and cell phones
- They provide money for local residents and fruit to local food banks at Christmas time
- They give local families that experience a disaster
- They give money for seeing eye dogs and the Diabetes Fund
- Created a scholarship endowment at the Maine Community Foundation with a gift from the late Lion Gerald Strickland.
The New Portland Community Church News for September 2017: Last month we made the announcement that the churches in New Portland and Fairbanks have hired a new minister. Rothea Kornelius preached her first service on August 27. This is an exciting time for the churches. She will be ordained on September 24 at 4:00 pm; however, at the time this article was submitted it was still undecided in which church the ordination would take place. There will be announcements made in other publications with this information. Please join us in our celebration to welcome our new minister.

Church suppers continue to be well attended and fun. Please join us on September 21 for a pot roast supper. It’s always a crowd pleaser. As usual, feel free to eat in or take out.

The Wire Bridge Thrift Store will be open Saturdays from 10:00 am – noon from September through December. However, if there are needs in the community which need to be met, 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 am with the service following at 11am. We would love to see you there.

Rothea Kornelius joined us on August 27th for her first Sunday in the pulpit. As she is a part-time minister she will be preaching three Sundays a month leaving time for her second job as coordinator for Mission at the Eastward. When a schedule has been established, it will be posted in the New Portlander. Respectfully...

Submitted: Nan Berry

This summer Tindall’s Country Store and Dam Diner in New Portland is hosting “Cruise Night”, an antique car show, every Thursday from 4:00 pm till 7:00 pm.

During the event there will be live music provided by Diamond in the Rough, consisting of Alan Trudell playing acoustic guitar and his partner Inge on flute and backing vocals. Alan Trudell is a local musician who was the lead singer, guitarist and songwriter in the band The Emissary, a band that was one of the acts at Woodstock ’94 in Bethel, NY and later was lead singer, guitarist and song writer in the band Split Orange. Diamond in the Rough is playing acoustic original songs from both of his former bands, as well as new material that Alan has written recently. Of course, they play some well known rock, blues and blue grass covers too and even added some car theme songs to their repertoire especially for the antique car show.

“Cruise Night” began a couple of weeks ago and since there has been an increasing number of antique cars at display. Owners of antique cars in the area are welcome to join and show their pride and joy at “Cruise Night”. The event is free admission and everyone is welcome. It is a perfect opportunity to enjoy a relaxed summer evening, whether it is admiring antique cars, meeting or catching up with locals or enjoying some live music in the picnic area of Tindall’s. Tindall’s Country Store and Dam Diner is offering a free slice of pizza to anyone who comes to check out the show. Of course, Tindall’s Diner offers a range of foods and beverages, from fresh home cooked meals and pastries, pizzas and sandwiches to sodas and alcoholic beverages. See you all at Cruise Night!

Submitted: Tindall’s Country Store and Dam Diner
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**Common Calendar Events**

- **Selectmen’s Meeting**
  - 1st Tuesday & 3rd Monday of each month
  - 6:30 pm

- **New Portland Fire Department Meeting**
  - 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month
  - 6:30 pm

- **New Portland Community Library**
  - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
  - 4pm - 6pm
  - Tuesday and Saturday morning
  - 10am - noon

- **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

- **Get Together Day**
  - at NPCL 10:00 am – Noon

- **Sand and Salt Shed Forum**
  - 6:30 Community Room

- **New Portlander**
  - Deadline at 4:00 pm

- **Historical Society**
  - Bake Sale 8:00 am at Tranten’s Kingfield

- **Lexington Highland Historical Society**
  - 4:00 pm at History House

- **Town Office Closed**
  - Labor Day Observance