



NEW PORTLANDER

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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

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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 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: 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**
Winter Hours - September 1 to May 31
Sunday 1pm - 3pm
Tuesday & Saturday 10am - Noon
Wednesday & 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
- **Recreation Committee**
1st Thursday of each month 6:30pm

Town Manager

The Community Dinner is December 3 at 5:00 pm. The Selectmen, some Fire Department members, and some Recreation Committee members will be hosting our Annual Free Public Supper for New Portland residents. Supper will be served from 5:00 - 6:00 PM. Town officials will be cooking and serving you for your continued support over the past year. The menu will be salad, prime rib, potatoes, veggies, rolls, and brownie sundae for dessert. There will be no tax dollars used for this supper, so please come and join us for some good food and great company.

Stacie and Kristen have their Annual Giving Tree at the town office. We will be taking gifts until Wednesday, December 20. There are gift tags on the tree, which have an item listed on it. We have children from the ages of 4 to 16, and we also have adults who are in need as well. The Fire Department will assist us with delivering the gifts before Christmas Day. If you have any questions, you can call the Town Office or email Stacie. We look forward to making this year's Giving Tree another success and hope you all have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Our winter hours have started and the town office will not be open on the first Saturday of the month.

The Town Office would like to thank all who helped take the flags down.

A big thank you to Janet White for putting our flower beds to rest for the winter and the arrangement which she made in the whiskey barrel under the town sign. Janet your continued assistance is very much appreciated.

The town office will be closed on the following dates: Monday, December 25 in observance of Christmas and Thursday, December 28 to allow for the closing of the town books.

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

Selectmen

RSU 74 / School Board

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for October 16, 2017

Selectmen Present: Wayne Rundlett, Raymond Poulin, Michael Senecal; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Mike Malesky, Dallas Landry, Brenda Stevens, Judi Wills, Michael Tracy, Ron Lindner-Demers, John Demers-Lindner, Becky and Gilbert Taylor

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

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the minutes from October 3, 2017. Raymond motioned to accept them as written and Wayne seconded; all were in favor.

RSU74 Superintendent Michael Tracy presented to the board and all who were present the budget process for the school system and how it works.

Mike Malesky presented a copy of the MVR to the board members for them to review. The Board members reviewed the MVR and signed it.

The Board members reviewed and signed payroll warrants and A/P warrant in the amount of \$121,140.27

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the current snowplow contract and what the requirements were that were in it. There was some question presented by Becky and Gilbert Taylor regarding the insurance requirements which are listed within the contract. After thorough review the Board of Selectmen made no decisions to change or amend the current contract. There were also some suggestions on how to move forward with the contract in future years. It was also brought to the board's attention that the contract ended in June of 2018. And a new bidding process would need to be started first thing in the spring of 2018.

Meeting Adjourned 7:33 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the November 7th meeting. Smr

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett

Wire Bridge Thrift Shop

The thrift shop volunteers have decided to move the news to its own section for more visibility. The big news is we are going to keep the thrift shop open all winter. Shelly Edwards and Amy Carter have volunteered to work on our 10:00 am – 12:00 hours on Saturday. Thank you, girls!! Plus our think tank is working on ways to better organize the shop. See you there.

Submitted: Floyd Cook

The Meeting: The November school board meeting was held at CHS. The cheese and crackers - and especially the whoopie pies - were the food highlights.

Minutes: The minutes of the October school board meeting were approved after a grammar error was corrected.

Superintendent Presentation - Building a Budget: Mr. Tracy has been attending selectmen's meetings this fall to communicate with town officials and citizens about the budget process. He showed a PowerPoint presentation that he has shared at these meetings. His primary goal in building a budget is to increase programming for students, and to do so in a manner that does not bring about large increases to taxpayers.

Appointments: Ross Sirois = boys' soccer coach, CCS; John Vartanian = unified boys' basketball coach, CHS; Heath Cowan - CHS softball; Tony Pranses - after school tutor, CHS; Sarah Harriman - after school tutor, CHS; Janet Boothby - advisory dean, CHS; Aaron Baum - advisory dean, CHS; Sarah Harriman - advisory dean, CHS; Stacey Robinson - advisory dean, CHS.

Resignation: Dustin Zamboni - ed tech 2, CHS

Nomination: Paul Thompson = CHS science/math

Reports: Mr. Tracy plans to hold a mid-year data workshop for the board, perhaps prior to the January board meeting. At this session, board members will spend time with each building administrator and receive updates regarding student progress and performance on MEA, NWEA, SAT, AP exams, etc.

Tim Richards told the board that 39 students had departed CHS on Wednesday morning to attend the Boston-area college trip. Students will visit SMCC, Tufts, Stonehill, and Salem State.

Tom Desjardins recently accompanied Erik Carey on a Boston trip with 30+ eighth grade students. He commended the students on their outstanding behavior. He also thanked Doug Cahill for his work during the recent storm and its aftermath while CCS has been a shelter for citizens without power.

Jean Butler said that she plans to give the board an update in January on how the GS SIG money has been utilized. She noted that many of the elementary school kids were disappointed that Halloween was affected by the storm/cancellation.

Lorie Agren said things have gone relatively smoothly at CCS while the school is being used as a shelter. Several people who are lacking power and heat have spent the night at the school.

NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is December 20 by 4:00 pm.

Any articles, submissions, information for publication should be received by:

Dallas Landry • PO Box 34, North New Portland, ME 04961 • phone 628-4201 • email: bigd@tdstelme.net

If there are any questions or needs regarding the receiving of the *New Portlander*, those inquiries should be directed to the Town Manager.

Scott Hall had nothing to add to his report that he had previously submitted to the board. He said he felt the cancellation notification had gone well, as it seemed that most everyone was contacted who needed to be.

Nicki Richardson said the number of students identified for special services has dropped from 142 to 138. The special educational review is underway and going well.

Chris Roy said that with the fall sports season over, the crunch for drivers isn't as severe, but that the lack of drivers/subs is his biggest concern. He thanked the drivers for their willingness to take on extra duties during the occasions where they have been short handed. He has worked with the 74 AD, Nate Stubbert, and RSU 59 middle school AD Al Veneziano to organize shared transportation when possible. For example, the CCS and MJHS cross country teams traveled together on several occasions. He apologized for any inconvenience caused by the Monday school cancellation.

Board chairman Bob Demchak praised Chris Roy, commending Roy's handling of the storm day situation. Mike Tracy echoed those comments, saying he is grateful for the team he has with Chris and Lorie.

Mr. Tracy also cleared up some confusion regarding the storm days and the governor's declaration of a state of emergency. The fact that a state of emergency was declared does **not** mean that days do not need to be made up. As of now, the October 30 and 31 storm days will have to be made up.

Committees: The Finance Committee met on October 11. The Policy Committee met on October 18. The board's negotiations committee met on October 12, 18, and 24. Several board members attended the MSMA conference on October 26 and 27. They indicated that the conference was a great experience.

Citizens: No one said anything.

Early Graduation Requests: The board approved the early graduation requests of Makayla Wyman and Hayley Taylor.

Youth in Maine Government: The board approved the November 10-12 Youth in Maine Government overnight trip.

Changing Facilities Coordinator to Facilities Manager: The board approved changing Lorie Agren's title from Facilities Coordinator to Facilities Manager.

Four Hour per day custodian at CCS: The board approved hiring a four hour per day part-time custodian at CCS.

Executive Session: The board entered executive session to discuss support staff contract negotiations. When they entered executive session, I went home. The only item remaining on the agenda at this time was Adjournment.

Submitted: Dave Ela, President of Carrabec Educational Association

New Portland Library

November 60 Club winners: 1st place \$50 Tish and Bob Kilpatrick, 2nd place \$25 Anonymous, 3rd \$10 Anna Sequin. Congratulations and thank you for your participation!

We gained 150 feet in our Penny Drive at the Fall Festival. We are now shy of $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile! Every penny counts!

The library has a piano for public use. Please stop in when we are open and play a tune. We also have a large selection of sheet music. It is available to use for lessons.

We are also planning on having a Piano/Wine Bar Evening sometime in January for a fun get together. Check us out on Facebook to keep informed. Friend us New Portland Community Library.

If you are tired of the games you have at home, stop by and check out one of ours. There are also puzzles you can borrow.

We have an Apple A1082 23" cinema display monitor with a minnie display port. The computer plug end is damaged. If you are interested, it is yours for a donation.

We also have a flat screen, working, Dell monitor that we are giving away. Stop in and have a look.

There is no Children's Hour this month.

On Thursday December 7 and 21 at 10:00 am join Knitwits and Happy Hookers

Every Tuesday 10:00 am – 12 noon Get Together-Enjoy a cup of coffee and a game of cribbage.

If we do not have the book you are looking for, we can get that book for you from the Interlibrary Loan.

We are recruiting new volunteers. Now the weather is cooler, you may have a little more time on your hands, and you can spare two hours a month to work the library desk. If the desk isn't for you, just stop in when we are open and help with other jobs. We appreciate all the help we can get!

Library Hours: Sunday 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Tuesday 10:00 am – 12:00 noon, Wednesday 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Thursday 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Saturday 10:00 am – 12:00 noon.

We will be closed Sunday the 24 and December 31. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Submitted: Rosemary Drosky

Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers

The November 11 monthly meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm with 18 members present.

The secretary's report was read and accepted.

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

The trail master reported that he had recently applied for a couple of grants. Also, he and Lew P. worked on ITS84 after the wind storm and removed all of the blow downs. There are a couple of small projects in the works, one of which is re-setting the markers in the fields that blew down. The Trail Master's report was accepted as stated.

Old business: The club is still checking into the possibility of purchasing an electric chainsaw for brushing. The purchase of a brush cutter for the side of the groomer is not feasible this year, as we have made other sizable purchases, but we will revisit the discussion this spring.

New business: This fall the club discussed getting a second groomer, but we were denied a capital equipment grant so the purchase fell through. However, the Millinocket club put an '06 groomer up for sale that fell within our price range. This groomer has a new motor and is in great condition. After approval from all club officers, the groomer was purchased. We have also purchased a used drag to use with the groomer. The club can apply for the capital improvement grant again this year, and if approved, we can put it toward the cost of the groomer.

A trail near Tannery Bridge will need to be slightly re-routed due to a new house being built. The homeowner has offered to help cut and de-stump the new trail. Lewis filled in a big hole on the New Portland Hill Trail that is a problem area for the groomer. We also need to fix a trail that keeps washing out. There is going to be a lot cut on the Hancock Pond Trail, but the contractor will help to straighten out the trail for us and possibly re-route a section. We still have enough poles and plank to construct a bridge behind the Bixby property; a work detail may be organized to work on this project.

The club will have our annual holiday party after the next meeting, Saturday, December 9. Members may bring a snack to share if they like. Those who are interested in participating in a Yankee swap may bring a gift (\$10 limit) to trade. Also, we will be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to the local food pantry as well. All are welcome to attend!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm.

The next meeting will be Saturday, December 9 at 6:30 pm at the firehouse meeting room with the holiday party to follow.

Submitted: Lynne Cary, Secretary

Sand and Salt Shed Committee

2017 New Portland Salt Shed Committee Findings and Summary November 20, 2017

During the budget preparations in January 2017 the board of selectman expressed an interest in looking into the possibility of building a sand and salt shed for the Town of New Portland. At the annual New Portland Town Meeting in March, this was again reiterated and community members who were interested in serving on a committee to research this were asked to step forward. The purpose of doing this research was to determine if there would be any savings to the town if the town owned its own sand and salt shed. Currently plowing and sand and salt storage are done as a combined contract. A town owned shed would allow for bidding on separate

contracts, one for plowing and one for sand and salt increasing the likelihood of a more competitive bidding for winter roads. The first meeting of the committee was held on April 20. There was a large group present consisting of selectmen, interested community members as well as local contractors with experience in plowing and general road maintenance.

A wide-ranging discussion took place at the first meeting in which the following points were discussed:

- Current winter road contract as it pertains to salt and sand storage
- Location of salt and sand pile
- Amount of salt and sand the town uses and related costs
- Possible locations for a shed and permitting that might be required
- Pros and cons of the types of buildings currently used in neighboring towns

The committee met monthly throughout the spring and summer with each meeting having a different focus i.e. possible locations, types of buildings, sand and salt amounts, as well as all related cost and contracts. The dates, times and location of each meeting were posted in the *New Portlander* and were open to the public.

As the committee approaches the end of the calendar year, we realize that the securing the funding and site of a town owning a salt storage shed will take more time than originally thought. However, the need for the town to continue to pursue owning its facility remain an important goal, for the following reasons. The current plowing contractor also is the owner of one of the only two sites in the Town of New Portland that is approved for sand and salt storage. It is reasonable to assume that the current contractor may not always wish to bid on the road contract or not always be the lowest bidder. This would result in leaving the town without a place to store sand and salt within the town, causing potential contractors to put in higher bids to cover the cost of hauling salt and sand from a location outside the town. During our discussions the current contractor has indicated he would consider leasing his approved land, the current sand and salt storage site, to the town. He is willing to do this whether or not he is awarded the plowing contract. This allows some measure of assurance for the town regarding sand and salt storage; additionally it allows the committee to do further research on building its own sand and salt shed.

The committee would like the selectmen to consider budgeting for and entering into a multi-year contract with the current winter road contractor for the current sand and salt storage site. This site would be available for use by any winter roads maintenance contractor to use for sand and salt storage for the duration of their contract. Additionally, the committee wishes to continue to study the possibility of the town owning its own sand and salt storage facility.

Submitted: The Sand and Salt Shed Committee

Community Churches

New Portland Community Church News for December:

It seems like just a short time ago we were preparing for Holiday Season 2016, and here it is Holiday Season 2017. Thanksgiving is behind us, and Christmas is coming up very quickly.

There are several special worship services to be aware of in the coming month. First, a Service of Care and Compassion to be held at the Fairbanks Union Church on Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00 pm. This is a quiet, candle-light service for those who may, for various reasons, have a difficult time with the festive season or just feel more comfortable with a softer, spiritual sort of Christmas service.

We will be holding our traditional service of lessons and carols (and candlelight) on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24 at 5:00 pm at the West New Portland Community Church. Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year so please make a note that there will be NO 11:00 am worship service on that Sunday. Please join us at 5:00 pm instead.

The Annual Christmas Toy Sale was held at the West Village Church on Saturday, November 18 and Saturday, November 25. Thank you so much for coming out and doing your Christmas shopping at the church. There were wonderful donations this year, as always, sent up by David Ronco, all the way from New Jersey. A big thanks to all who came out to unload the truck and set up for the sale on Monday, November 13, and an extra big thank you for those who gave up their Saturday mornings to run the sale. This sale is a big fund raiser for the church and those who participate are very much appreciated.

Services are being held at the West Village Church on Sunday mornings. We have been enjoying our new minister very much. Rev. Thea Kornelius, in her part-time, position will be preaching three Sundays a month. Doug Walrath has kindly offered to cover the remaining one or two Sundays a month. Thea and Doug are both excellent preachers who are full of energy and clarity. Coffee hour starts at 10:30 am with the service following at 11:00 am. We would love to see you there. Again, remember that there will be no service at 11:00 am on December 24, see you, instead, for the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols. Merry Christmas!!

Submitted: Nan Berry

The Western Mountains Baptist Church had a wonderful turnout for our Thanksgiving Potluck on November 19. It was a joy to see approximately 100 folks who stayed after the service enjoying good food and having lots of conversation. I am certain new friendships and lasting connections were made during this time of getting together to thank God for all He provides and for all of His promises of love and hope. Anytime you happen to be in

the neighborhood during one of our monthly potlucks, please, know you are always welcome. There is no charge and no commitments.

To celebrate this Christmas season, the Community Christmas Concert will be held on December 15 at WMBC at 6:30 pm. Worship leader, Brenna Cockerham of Freeman Township, has 22 people singing acapella a variety of hymns including an African carol; you may want to arrive early to get the best seating for this festive and joyful time of celebrating the birth of Jesus. Also, plan to stay afterwards to enjoy a variety of tasty treats prepared by the skilled cooks at WMBC (They get lots of practice).

Bridging the Gap will take place on Saturday, December 23. Call Cathy Haines, of Salem Township at 684-2442 if you or someone you know would like to have a hot lunch delivered to your door on that day. WMBC is looking to expand this program into New Portland and enlist more folks in Kingfield who may be elderly, disabled and/or homebound. There is no charge for these monthly meals. You get to choose one of the two available options. I have heard the desserts aren't anything you want to pass up!

Once again, we are planning a New Year's Eve gathering at the church with food and friends. There will be games and a talent show. Last year, this was a fun time for the whole family, for kids as well as adults. Everyone got to play and share in lots of laughter. There were folks willing to display real talent, and some willing to display some "not so much talent". All done in good fun. Join us at 6:00 pm until the party ends, 9:00 – 10:00 pm, Sunday evening, December 31.

Pastor Tom DuBois has been preaching some powerful messages from the book of 1 Peter for the last several weeks. All of his messages can be heard in person, on cd or on the WMBC website at, www.westernmountainschurch.org. CDs are available each week and are mailed to folks who would like to receive them. We only need your address. Please make your request by calling the church at 265-2557, send an email to pastorwmbc@gmail.com or by mail at Western Mountains Baptist Church, PO Box 264, Kingfield, Maine 04947.

As a reminder, Sunday morning service begins at 10:00 am. Sunday School is available for all ages beforehand at 9:00 am. Weekly opportunities include a Men's Bible study every Monday night at 6:30 pm, a Ladies Walking Group at 5:30 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays, a ladies Bible study meets Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am and Youth Group meets Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm. Call or text Pastor Tom at 557-3802 for more information on these events and/or others offered throughout the month.

In closing, for this last article of 2017, may you be blessed by the memories of God's goodness during this past year and be excited for what He has planned for each of us in 2018. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Submitted by Crystal Fitch, member of WMBC



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

NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR						
DECEMBER 2017						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Community Dinner 5:00 - 6:00 pm Community Room	Selectors's Meeting 6:30 pm at Community Room Get Together Day 10:00 am - 12 noon at NPCL	Selectors's Meeting 6:00 pm Library Board of Trustees Meeting - 6:30 pm Fire Department	School Board Meeting	Knitwits and Happy Hookers at NPCL 10:00 am	Thrift Shop Open 10:00 am - noon Sno-Travelers Meeting 6:30 pm Meeting Room	Thrift Shop Open 10:00 am - noon Sno-Travelers Meeting 6:30 pm Meeting Room
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Fire Department Meeting - 6:30 pm Library Board of Trustees 6:00 pm Get Together Day 10:00 am - 12 noon at NPCL	Selectors's Meeting 6:30 pm at Community Room Get Together Day 10:00 am - 12 noon at NPCL	Selectors's Meeting 6:30 pm at Community Room		Thrift Shop Open 10:00 am - noon Sno-Travelers Meeting 6:30 pm Meeting Room	Thrift Shop Open 10:00 am - noon Sno-Travelers Meeting 6:30 pm Meeting Room
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Selectors's Meeting 6:30 pm at Community Room	Get Together Day 10:00 am - 12 noon at NPCL	Deadline for New Portland 4:00 pm Deadline for Giving Tree	Knitwits and Happy Hookers at NPCL 10:00 am	Thrift Shop Open 10:00 am - noon Sno-Travelers Meeting 6:30 pm Meeting Room	Thrift Shop Open 10:00 am - noon Sno-Travelers Meeting 6:30 pm Meeting Room
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Town Office Closed) Christmas	Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm Get Together Day 10:00 am - 12 noon at NPCL		Town Office Closed - Closing Books for Year End		Thrift Shop Open 10:00 am - noon Sno-Travelers Meeting 6:30 pm Meeting Room
31	New Year's Eve					

DOUG KEHR PHOTO

