



NEW PORTLANDER

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

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TOWN OFFICE INFORMATION

Phone: 628-4441 • Fax: 628-4440

Town Office Contact Information and Hours of Operation:

Town Manager/CEO: Stacie Rundlett - Ext. 1

Email nwprtInd@tds.net

Deputy Town Manager: Kristen Mitchell - Ext. 0

Tax collecting, registrations, hunting & fishing licenses

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10am - 5pm

Thursday 12pm - 6pm

1st Saturday of each month (except Dec., Jan., Feb., Mar.) ... 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 Dec., Jan., Feb., Mar.) ... 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

Town Clerk

The Municipal Election results are as follows: Board of Selectmen - three year term - Andrea Reichert; Town Clerk - three year term - Kristen Mitchell; RSU #74 School Board Member - three year term - Jessi Atwood Campbell.

Submitted: Kristen Mitchell, Town Clerk

Town Assessor

The assessor's office will be open on April 2 from 8:00 am through 12:00 pm (noon) for inquiries from taxpayers. The office will also be open during its regular hours of 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday and by appointment.

Submitted: R. Michael Malesky, Assessor's Agent Town of New Portland

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
- **Library Board of Trustees Meeting**
2nd Tuesday of the month 6pm
- **Planning Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of the month 6:30pm
- **New Portland Water District**
2nd Wednesday of each month 7pm
- **School Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of each month 6pm
- **Recreation Committee**
1st Thursday 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
- **New Portland Post Office Customer Service Hours**
Monday - Friday 7am - 9am, 2pm - 4pm
Saturday 7am - 10:30am

Announcement

The Recreation Committee would like to challenge citizens by doing Trivia Questions. "So you think you know New Portland". The questions will be about people, places and things, present and past in New Portland. Each month we will ask a question. You can submit your answer by paper print out and bring it to the Town Office to put into entry box. Also you could submit your answer by email to : jwills@tdstelme.net. the person (or persons) with the correct answer will have their name in the next *New Portlander* along with the correct answer. We will do this once a month. We hope people will give it a try. Do some research to get answers. Ask people in the community, read history of New Portland etc. This should be fun and educational about the town in which you live.

Trivia Question: What was the original name of the now known Carrabassett River. (Hint, the Indians gave this name.)

Submitted: Judi Wills

Selectmen

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for Feb. 19, 2018

Selectmen Present: Mike Senecal (Chairperson)
Raymond Poulin, Wayne Rundlett
Present: Stacie Rundlett, Brian Rundlett, Judi Wills, Mike Malesky, Andrea Reichert,
Ron Lindner-Demers, John Demers-Lindner, Kristen Mitchell and Brayden Lovejoy, Gary Agren, Paul Hilenski

1. Mike Senecal called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. Raymond motioned to accept the minutes as written, Wayne seconded and all were in favor.
3. The Board of Selectmen reviewed and signed the payroll and accounts payable warrants. The board and Stacie discussed a request to support Childhood Cancer Awareness during the month of September by decorating with gold. There was a brief discussion and since there was no requirement for funds to support this awareness the board decided to go ahead and proclaim that New Portland will help Maine Go Gold in support of Team Hailey Hugs and all of the children and families affected by Childhood Cancer. Raymond motioned, Wayne seconded and all were in favor. More information will be distributed so that the residents can also participate if they so choose. The board reviewed and signed off on the January treasurer's report.
4. There was a brief discussion regarding posting of the roads.
Meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the March 6 meeting. Smr

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for March 6, 2018

Selectmen Present: Raymond Poulin, Andrea Reichert, Wayne Rundlett; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Brian Rundlett, Judi Wills, Mike Malesky, Ron Lindner-Demers, John Demers-Lindner, Dallas Landry, Brenda Stevens, Judi and Lewis Wills, Kip Poulin

1. Raymond called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. Wayne motioned for Andrea to be Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Raymond seconded and all were in favor.
3. Andrea motioned to accept the minutes as written, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.

4. Department Heads:

- a. Kip briefed the board on recent calls. He discussed with the board the recent purchase of a new litter for the department. There was training scheduled for Sunday.
- b. Mike Malesky discussed with the board a tentative meeting for a sand/salt shed meeting. After a brief discussion a meeting was scheduled for March 21 at 6:30 pm.
- c. Judi briefed the board on possible activities for the recreation committee. The next recreation committee meeting is scheduled for April 5, and she would bring the selectmen up to date on commitments of activities after that meeting.

5. Items by the Town Manager:

The board reviewed and signed payroll and accounts payable warrants. There was a brief discussion regarding town owned properties and the bid process. The board reviewed an administrative consent agreement for a violation of the Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Ordinance. Andrea authorized Stacie to sign the agreement on behalf of the town, Raymond seconded and all were in favor. There was a brief discussion regarding the snow plow contract and getting the document to the board members for review and have future discussions of any amendments or changes to the current document.

6. Items by the Board of Selectmen:

Wayne brought up a discussion regarding a shed being built for the storage of a new mower that is proposed to be bought for the town to mow the town property. There was a brief discussion regarding the matter. Several ideas were discussed. Stacie would be contacting lawn mowing companies to get quotes and then give the information to the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee to make a decision of whether to hire a company to mow or purchase and store our own mower. Raymond asked Stacie to contact the school board members and see if they will attend the April 3 meeting to discuss with the school board members their thoughts on some issues going on within the district. Andrea discussed with the board members on how they felt about her contacting CMP about the town's lighting. Both Wayne and Raymond were comfortable with her reaching out to them regarding the matter.

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: alderswamp2@gmail.com

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

7. Items by the Public:

Lewis Wills asked if the next snow plow contract was going to be for a three year term? There was a discussion regarding the matter. There was a brief discussion regarding a possible location for a sand/salt shed facility and some concerns with a proposed location. After a thorough discussion the board members assured the public that before a property was purchased, the board would make sure to take all steps necessary to ensure that they were purchasing the best possible location for a sand/salt shed facility. But at this time, it has only been discussions regarding possible options.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the March 19 meeting. Smr

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett

Planning Board

Planning Board Meeting Minutes for Jan.1, 2018

Members Present: Brian Rundlett, Lewis Wills, Kyle Handrahan, Peter Gardner, Jim Heichel; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Brook Gardner, Mike Malesky, Judi Wills

Peter called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

There was a brief discussion regarding the CMP violation regarding the wireless antennas. Stacie briefed the board on thoughts that the town's attorney had to try to resolve this issue. It was noted that due to Federal Law changes for Wireless Communications, the Planning Board may want to review and revise the Town of New Portland Wireless Communications Ordinance. The board was comfortable with following through with the suggestions from the town's attorney to try and resolve this issue. Jim motioned to go ahead with the attorney's recommendations, Brian seconded and all were in favor.

Mike Malesky updated the board on the Jordan/Nickinello subdivision and the amendments that were approved at the last Planning Board meeting. There was no action taken as it was all approved at the last planning board meeting.

The Planning Board reviewed setback amendments for the Middlegate Subdivision that were submitted by Larry Warren. The board reviewed all of the data and mapping information that they had before them. After reviewing the information, the board members were all in favor of approving the amendments made to the setbacks of the subdivision.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm

These minutes were approved by the Planning Board members at the March 7 meeting. smr

RSU 74 / School Board

The March school board meeting was held on March 7 at CHS. The whoopie pies and crackers were a highlight. I did not sample the fruit though the people who did seemed to enjoy it.

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

Student Presentation: A JMG presentation was postponed.

Kathy Bertini presented information about the STEM program. She was assisted by Julieanne Belanger and Brian Twitchell. During 2017-2018 RSUs 13-59-74 have benefited from an Embrace Grant, which gives the districts funding for STEM. Ms. Bertini spends one third of the year in each district. While in RSU 74, she has worked with students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 8. Students work with every day consumable objects, like straws, and come to learn how an object as seemingly unimpressive as a straw can be used to make major scientific breakthroughs. Students also work with 3D printers. A slideshow was displayed, which showed students who were highly engaged. Mr. Twitchell and Mrs. Belanger spoke to the board about the impressive levels of student engagement.

Grant money has funded Ms. Bertini's position this year, along with other STEM supplies and eight 3D printers. The three districts have been awarded a STEAM grant (the A being for the arts) for 18-19. Kathy Bertini will be presenting on STEM education in Atlanta later this month, and Richard Reichenbach will be making a STEM presentation at Thomas College soon. Several board members expressed enthusiasm and support for the developing STEM/STEAM program in RSU 74.

Superintendent Report: Mr. Tracy congratulated the five people who had been elected/re-elected to the school board for terms starting in July. The five were Tammy Murray, Bob Demchak, Jessi Campbell, Bob Lindblom, and Dwight Barron.

For 2018-2019, RSU 74 seems destined to lose some state funding due to the fact that the district has not entered into a regionalization center. However, in recent days the DOE has suggested that - in future years - if RSU 74 and the districts it is currently collaborating with were to submit some sort of formal plan, detailing the current level of collaboration, perhaps the plan would be approved and funding restored.

Mr. Tracy will be recommending to the board that in 2018-2019 there be a full-time special ed director (with some teaching responsibility). The cost of the full-time director will be offset by a recommended reduction (presumably through attrition) in the special ed department.

Appointments: Tammy Long - Gear Up Tutoring, CHS; Terry Corson - CCS softball; Luke Tewksbury - CCS baseball; Dave Richardson - CHS softball

Committees: The board's finance committee met in March to discuss the 2018-2019 budget.

Citizens: Tanya Carey of Embden spoke, encouraging the board to consider adding a half-time position at CHS to support the increased student involvement in band and chorus. The number of students involved in chorus/ band at the elementary and middle levels is quite large, but once those students reach high school, there are few opportunities for those students to continue.

2018-2019 School Calendar: The board approved Mr. Tracy's school calendar proposal. 175 student days/7 workshop days. One of the workshop days will be dropped in exchange for teachers holding parent conferences. A second workshop day will be dropped in exchange for teachers engaging in professional development (early release days for students/teachers stay until 3:30) on six occasions.

To see if the Board will approve to remove all job descriptions from the current policy manual: The board approved.

To see if the Board will approve updating policies (. . . about 20 policies in all). The board approved.

Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan was approved; it will continue to be reviewed and updated as needed.

To see if the Board will accept the Maine DOE

Embrace 2 Grants: The board accepted two grants. One expands upon the STEM grant that RSU 74 shares with 13 and 59 this year. The other grant, also with 13 and 59, creates a middle level (grades 7-9) alternative ed program which will be located at Madison Junior High.

2018-2019 Budget Discussion and Actions: Mr. Tracy stated that in order to bring the 2018-2019 budget in at a level that would cause no increase to taxpayers, \$735,223 would need to be cut.

The cutting began on Wednesday night with what Mr. Tracy described as being the "soft" cuts. Eliminated from the 2018--2019 budget: one special ed teacher - \$64,000; CCS assistant principal position - \$60,500; technology equipment - \$23,000; cut to STEM budget - \$10,000; decrease in course reimbursement - \$10,000; half of a seven hour bus driver position - \$12,500; food service - \$5,000; facilities - \$30,000; Co and extracurricular - \$2,000; evaluation stipend - \$5,000.

These cuts reduced the budget by \$217,000. The board was not content to stop there and leave a more than \$500,000 increase to taxpayers. The admin team were encouraged to produce some more reductions. It is expected the the superintendent will recommend some "hard" cuts at the March 14 budget meeting.

Next Budget Meeting: March 14 at 6:00 pm at CHS

Submitted: Dave Ela, President of Carrabec Educational Association

Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers

The March 10 monthly meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm with 11 members present.

The secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer reported that there are no outstanding bills due at this time. The club's checking and savings account balances were read. The treasurer's report was accepted as read.

The trail master was not present at tonight's meeting. Lewis Wills informed club members that grooming is done for the year. The ground is saturated and the snow is very wet and sticky on top, making it hard for the groomer to operate without risking maintenance issues. Some final brushing has been done over the past month by a few members. Bridge work is planned for this summer.

Old business: Bill Cafarelli is having a website constructed for Cafe Rellis. He will inquire with the webmaster about the logistics of setting one up for the Wire Bridge Sno Travelers as well, including a way to submit online club memberships and donations to the club. Bill will find out the cost to set up and maintain the site, and any legalities involved, and report back to members. The club is waiting to hear from the town regarding potential need in New Portland if the club were to make a donation in the landowners names. Other options are still on the table, including a scholarship and donating to the food pantry. Club members will vote on where to direct the donation once all information has been received.

New business: Groomer maintenance and putting the groomers away for the summer will take place. The club will be hiring someone to come take care of the new groomer for a reasonable fee, and the Tucker will be taken care of by club members. Anyone wishing to assist, please contact Lewis Wills.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm. The next meeting will be Saturday, April 14 at 6:30 pm at the firehouse meeting room.

Submitted: Lynne Cary, Secretary

Citizens Corner

My dear fellow New Portlanders: March 18, 2018

I have an apology to make to you all. I attended our town meeting on March 3. There were about 50 townspeople there in a town of around 700. In an attempt to make things fairer, I have inadvertently and unintentionally made things worse for some of you. There were two warrants that were involved - #30 and #32. One stated there will be a 7% interest rate charged on unpaid taxes and the other stated the town only has to pay 3% on taxes that have to be returned due to an abatement. Why should the people who owe taxes be charged a higher percentage on their debt than the town pays on their debt? When warrant #30 came up for a vote, I brought this discrepancy up and asked that the interest on unpaid taxes be reduced to the 3% that the town has to pay. It was brought up that it would be easier to raise the tax rate on the abatements since there are less of those occurring than nonpayment of taxes. This would put less of a financial burden on the town. My motion was voted down.

I thought it was over and the suggested rate of 7% would then pass. But that was not the case. A voice from the back of the room then made a motion to raise the rate to 8% since that is currently the max that can be charged. I was taken by surprise and couldn't figure out why this motion was made. Later I found out that this motion was made by our newest selectman. There was no good reason for her to make this motion except that she could since towns are allowed to charge the max allowable amount. It is only causing increased hardship to the tax payers. People don't pay their taxes for many reasons. Some reasons may be that they have a fixed income, they have experienced a sudden catastrophic event such as an illness or job loss, or they just pay when they are forced to pay. It is those hardworking people who have a sudden catastrophe in their lives and those on a fixed income who have it the worst. Charging them the max interest only adds to their debt which they are more and more unable to pay. They get buried in a larger ever growing debt. It puts undue stress on those who are already in a stressful situation. I was also told that 8% is the rate that has been charged for years. That doesn't mean it is the best thing to do just because we can. Why not give our townspeople a break? Wasn't this country's revolution caused by increased taxes? We are taxed on everything anymore. I don't know about you but I work hard for my money and I would like to enjoy the fruits of my labor. I also understand that we have to maintain the town so we can enjoy that but how much difference was a 1% increase going to be?

I don't know how to fix this until it comes up for a vote next year. I am apologizing for being the catalyst that caused events to happen that raised the taxation rate to 8%. Please forgive me. My other plea is that we all become more knowledgeable with what goes on in this town. It affects us all. I have been too uninvolved. I don't understand how town finances work and I need to learn so I can make better recommendations at the next town meeting. Please join me. It is our town and we can affect change. I felt at that meeting that no one wanted to listen and everyone just voted they way it was recommended. It was very evident at the discussion about the salt shed and a lack of discussion about changing the street lights to LED to save money.

Thank you,

Submitted: Virginia Ann LaNoce

New Portland Library

Congratulations to our April 60 Club winners: 1st prize \$50 Kay and Allen Michka, 2nd prize \$25 in memory of Tommy, 3rd prize \$10 Kenneth Atwood. Thank you for your participation.

Join us Tuesday mornings at the library at 10:30 am for a game of cribbage and a cup of coffee. Meet your match or learn to play!

April is read a "book that became a film". We will have some set out for you. Don't forget to check the children's choices.

We have a local patron who would like to start a writers' group. Please let the library personnel know if you are interested. This group includes those who are currently writing and those who want to get started.

We have added lots of new books and movies you can check out during our open hours. We also had a large donation of large print books. Any book or movie we don't have are usually available through interlibrary loan and those are delivered each Thursday afternoon.

The library collection has been moved around to make much-needed room. Ask at the front desk if you are unable to find an item. Did you know you can



also check out what we own by going to the Town of New Portland web site, choosing the library under the department drop-down box, and then filling out the empty box with the title?

Once a month we will be hosting a Sunday afternoon movie. Watch *The Irregular* and our page on Facebook for titles, dates and times. This is possible due to a grant from the Sugarloaf Region Charitable Trust.

Check our Facebook page for exact dates - we will be having a "Free Children's Books" day in the near future. Come in and get an armload for the younger readers.

Once again we will be having our Chinese Auction, Memorial Weekend at the Happy HorseShoe. We are looking for usable items for donation. You may find these items when you are spring cleaning: no clothing or books. Please set the items aside, and we will have more information in the May *New Portlander*.

Library Hours: Tuesday 10:00 am – noon; Wednesday 4:00 – 6:00 pm; Thursday 4:00 – 6:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am - noon; Sunday 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Please stop in! Keep in touch through Facebook - New Portland Community Library, email us at newportlandcl@gmail.com or call 628-6561.

Submitted: Shelia Atwood

Community Church

The Western Mountains Baptist Church is excited to announce the availability of their second annual Community Scholarship. A \$1000 award will be presented to a Western Maine student who has demonstrated academic and personal potential and service to their community. Graduating seniors from Carrabec High School and Mt. Abram High Schools are encouraged to submit an application. The online application can be found at <https://www.goingmerry.com/>. April 21. For more information talk to the high school guidance counselor at Carrabec High School, Mt. Abram High School or call Pastor Tom DuBois at 557-3802.

The Western Mountains Baptist Church had a great turnout for the February Family Fun Day. There was a bonfire to cook hotdogs and marshmallows for smores which the children, young and old, enjoyed. After the barbecue the brave folks headed to Gilmore Hill for sledding. The snowstorm did not deter the outdoor fun. As rumor had it, the new snow actually helped make the packed snow more comfortable to slide on.

April 1, an Easter Sunrise Service will be held at 6:30 am outside of the church by the cross. This will be a time to reflect on the empty tomb and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Afterwards, get warmed up inside the church with hot coffee or hot chocolate and a big breakfast cooked and served by the men. There is no charge and everyone is welcome. At 10:00 am (our weekly worship service time) Pastor Tom will speak more of the Easter message. Come join some or all of WMBC's Easter celebration.

The very next evening on April 2 a ten week Israel Course begins. These classes will be held on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm. Participants will watch a 30 minute video followed by discussion on what was just viewed. Jim and Brenna Cockerham members of WMBC and residents of Freeman Township will lead the classes. Come learn about the miraculous history of Israel from Biblical times to modern reality. Christians United for Israel is the sponsoring organization of the course. There is no charge for this event and it is open to the public. For more information call the church at 265-2557 or email: pastorwmbs@gmail.com.

On April 21, the Women's Ministry is hosting a potluck Spring Brunch beginning at 9:00 am. The speaker, Cathy Ramey, currently lives in Bangor with her husband Gary. The Rameys served for 16 years on the International Missions Board in Latvia - which used to be a part of the Soviet Union. Mrs. Ramey will be speaking on, "building God's Kingdom instead of trying to build our own kingdom". Invite your mom, sister, daughter and/or friends for a time of fellowship with other awesome women. For more information call Pat Sanders at 265-4164.

As a reminder, Bridging the Gap meals are available the last Saturday of each month for folks who are elderly and/or homebound. If you live in New Portland, Kingfield or Salem Township and would like to have a hot nutritious meal delivered to your door call Cathy Haines at 678-2442 to make your meal choice. The free meal will be delivered April 28 just in time for lunch.

If you are unable to join us on Sunday mornings, there are two ways for you to still be able to hear the weekly sermons. You can contact the church and ask for the cds to be mailed to you (at no charge), Or you can visit our website: westernmountainschurch.org to listen online.

Happy Resurrection Sunday and enjoy the mud season.

Submitted by Crystal Fitch, member of WMBC

New Portland Community Church News for April

Spring has sprung! Sort of. And with it comes Easter Sunday, April 1. The New Portland Community Church will be contributing to the ecumenical Easter Dawn service held on Voter Hill in Farmington, at 6:20 am. An Easter service will be held in New Portland at the regular worship hour: 10:30 am coffee hour, 11:00 am worship service.

April also brings the first of the church community suppers. The first supper will be held April 19 at 5:00 pm, the third Thursday of the month, as always. This first supper of the year will be a spaghetti dinner and will be 'donation only', no money will be taken at the door, and all are welcome. Come for a good meal and take the opportunity to meet the new pastor, Rothea Kornelius.

Thea (pronounced Tee-uh) was born in South Africa and grew up there. She completed her physical therapy degree there and then came to the US to work. She completed her doctorate in physical therapy at Boston University and then went to the University of Dubuque to complete her Masters of Divinity degree. She moved here in September of 2017 after receiving the call to be the pastor of Fairbanks Union Church as well as the New Portland community churches and Executive Director of MATE. She lives in Farmington with her spouse Dawn and five 4-footed babies. Still getting used to the winters here but loves the outdoors, gardening, reading and music. She is looking forward to meeting everyone and serving these communities.

The Wire Bridge Thrift Store is making some changes too. Please make a note that the store will be open from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm on the first and third Saturdays of the month. Stop by to check out what's available, the store has been reorganized and is really looking nice!

There will be no service at the New Portland Church on April 22. This is the date of the Annual Joint Jazz Service at Fairbanks Union Church. Members of both churches meet for a rousing service of jazzy gospel and revival hymns accompanied by The South Strong Road Crew, a three-piece jazz ensemble. This is a really fun one!

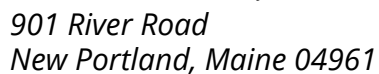
On April 29, a joint service with Fairbanks Union Church will be held in New Portland at 10:00 am. This will be a congregation led service of hymns, poems, special music and reading. A brunch will follow the service. It promises to be a service with something for and by everyone.

Regular services are held at the West Village church. Coffee hour starts at 10:30 am with the service following at 11:00 am. We would love to see you there. Again, remember there will be no service in New Portland on April 22, see you, instead, at the Annual Jazz Service, 10:00 am at Fairbanks Union Church. And on April 29 the service will be held at 10:00 am and will be a joint service with Fairbank Union Church, brunch to follow. Respectfully. . .

Submitted: Nan Berry

Spring has Sprung





New Portland, ME
Permit No. 1

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