



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: nwprtInd@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 26 • NUMBER 11 • MAY 1, 2020

TOWN OFFICE INFORMATION

Phone: 628-4441 • Fax: 628-4440

Town Office Contact Information and Hours of Operation:

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday..... 10am - 5pm
Thursday..... 12pm - 6pm
First Saturday of the month 8am - noon
(except Dec., Jan., Feb., Mar. and permitting it's not a holiday weekend)

Town Manager/CEO, Deputy Clerk: Stacie Rundlett

Email nwprtInd@tds.net

Town Clerk: Kristen Mitchell

Email newportlandtownclerk@gmail.com

LPI: Leo Mayo - 566-7341

Assessor's Agent: Mike Malesky

Monday..... 1pm - 5pm
Email HUDSONBAYAXE@gmail.com

Fire Department: Chief Kip Poulin

Animal Control Officer: Keith Mudgett, Jr. - Cell: (207) 248-2874

Remember...

- **Selectmen's Meeting**
1st Tuesday & 3rd Monday of each month6:30pm
- **New Portland Fire Department Meeting**
2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month6:30pm
- **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.....6:30pm
- **School Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of each month 6pm
- **Recreation Committee**
1st Thursday of each month6:30pm
- **New Portland Community Library**
Winter Hours - September 1 to May 31
Tuesday & Saturday.....10am - Noon
Wednesday..... 4pm - 6pm
Thursday & Sunday 1pm - 3pm
- **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

Town Manager

The Board of Selectmen intend on meeting remotely this month unless restrictions have been relaxed allowing the public to attend.

Topic: May 5 New Portland Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Time: May 5, 2020 at 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/>

Meeting ID: 736 8454 2808

Password: Selectmen

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

RSU 74 / School Board

The April School Board Meeting was held at Carrabec Community School. A handful of board members were in attendance, and the rest attended through computer application Zoom.

Adjustment to the Agenda: The last item on the meeting agenda was scheduled to be a discussion of the potential closure of Garrett Schenck. This discussion was postponed. It will not be revisited until board meetings return to the "normal" format.

Minutes: The minutes of the March 4 board meeting, the March 11 budget meeting, and March 16 special board meeting were approved.

Superintendent Report: 1.) Mr. Tracy thanked the families and staff of RSU 74 for the patience and kindness that they have displayed, and the hard work that they are doing. 2.) He was happy to report that JMG has received a grant to donate to families in need. More than 200 food boxes will be delivered to families in need prior to April Vacation. 3.) The superintendent summarized LD 2167. Among the highlights of LD 2167: The 175 day student year requirement is waived. All public employees will be paid through the budget year. If it becomes necessary to extend the 2020-21 budget process past June 30, that can be done. LD 2167 allows for school board meetings to be done remotely. [A board member asked if spring stipends are being paid. In the event there is no spring sports

season, spring coaching stipends will not be paid.] 4.) Mr. Tracy updated the board on the status of teacher contract negotiations. When school ended on March 13, the teacher negotiating team and board negotiating team were pretty much done, and it was the intention to have the deal ratified at the April board meeting. Events took over and the new plan is for both sides to have it wrapped up by the May board meeting. [One board member voiced the opinion that it makes sense to ratify a contract with the teachers at this time. She does not think that the existing (2017-2020) contract should be used as the basis for any new deal. Instead, she feels that the board should go to the association and re-examine everything that is done ie. salaries, insurance, teaching positions, etc. No other board members expressed agreement with those sentiments.] [Another board member asked about the budget process (whenever it resumes.) Will it be similar to what it has been in the past? A district-wide meeting, a referendum vote, etc.? Mr. Tracy said that the intent was to keep things as normal as possible.] [A board member expressed concern about students who may not have internet access at home. Mr. Tracy said that the district has attempted to contact all 6-12 families, and will be addressing this.] 5.) Discussing food deliveries, Mr. Tracy said that there are five pick up locations. There is also a call-in number, so that families who can't make it to a pick-up location can arrange to have food delivered. [A board member expressed concern, as she had seen on Facebook that one individual was unable to make it to a food delivery site. The board member was assured that people who make their concerns known have been helped.] Continuing with the topic of food delivery, Mr. Tracy said that food will be delivered to families each Monday, Wednesday and Friday until April Vacation week. In our region of the state, all schools are observing the scheduled April Vacation as a break from meals, packets, and online learning. 6.) Teachers in grades 6-12 have been trained in Google Classroom, Zoom, Screencastify, and other aspects of online learning. 6-12 families have been contacted regarding their internet access, and 40 hot spots have been purchased. These hot spots will be given to families that do not have internet access. 9-12 laptops will be made available to students this week, and 6-8 laptops the week of April 6. 7.) Report cards will be mailed on April 10. [A board member asked if there is a plan in place in case - once sent home - student laptops are damaged or destroyed. The answer is there is a plan.]

Resignation: Lisa Savage - Reading Interventionist, Garret Schenk (effective at conclusion of 2019-2020 school year). [A board member asked if Lisa Savage's position will be filled. Mr. Tracy said that it will be. He mentioned Solon Fifth Grade and CCS Principal/6-12 AD as being two other positions that will need to be filled by the 2020-21 school year.]

Admin Updates: 1.) Tim Richards informed that board that as of April 6, Carrabec High School learning will be all digital. 2.) Jean Butler praised her staff for their hard work creating work packets and making food deliveries possible. 3.) Scott Hall and his staff are working hard making 6-12 computers ready for distribution. 4.) Lorie Agren said that she has a "great staff" and praised them for the work that they have done during a challenging time. 5.) Grace Cram says that her staff is working hard and praised the staff for their volunteer efforts. [A board member expressed concern about students with IEPs during this time. Grace responded that staff members are in regular contact with parents. The work the students receive is consistent with IEP goals. Tele-therapy is an

option for Speech and OT goals.] 6.) Brian Twitchell is impressed with the effort that staff members have made to learn new technology and their desire to make online learning work well.

Public Participation: The meeting was broadcast on Facebook and Youtube. Citizens were given a phone number they could call in order to ask questions. One caller asked if substitute teachers are eligible for unemployment. The caller was encouraged to contact state unemployment with that question. Another caller asked when the discussion of Garret Schenck would occur. The discussion will not occur until board meetings return to their "normal" form. A caller asked what towns should do as some of the towns are lacking in funds right now, yet they still need to pay the school district. The caller was told to contact the superintendent.

To see if the Board will approve the public proceedings, including school board meetings through remote access during "state of emergency". This was approved.

To see if the Board will approve the (draft) distance/remote learning plan The plan involves meeting basic human needs (food), making social and emotional connections, and helping educational needs. Educational needs are being addressed through learning packets and online distance learning. As time progresses, there may be a daily schedule put in place with real-time (live) classes. [A board member expressed the hope that we will document what is working well and what has not been so effective. She expressed concern with the 8:00 – 11:00 am "on call" hours for teachers, saying that does not work for some families. She suggested there be some evening hours where teachers were "on call".] [Another board member stated that she thought the k-5 packets were very effective. She was not sure how effective learning was at 6-12. She was particularly concerned about CHS students in "college classes", saying they needed more direction. The board voted to approve the (draft) distance learning plan.]

The meeting ended around 7:30 pm.

Submitted: Dave Ela, Carrabec Association President

New Portland Community Library

Because we care about the health of our community, we have been closed and will remain so until libraries open up again; this is based on directives of the Maine State Library. In the meantime, we are placing free books outside the library. Please take what you wish and do not return. It will help all our community members if you wear gloves and take other precautions. There's some good selections for children, youth and adults. We would rather see you reading these books now instead of holding them all for our book sale in June!

Our February Library Club winners were Marsha Siviski and Bob Whitten; March winners were New Portland Lions Club and Kenneth and Wardy Atwood; April winners are Lori Hibbard and Wendy Atwood. Congratulations and thank you for our support.

We are hoping to hold the following events: Chinese Auction on May 30 at the Happy Horseshoe Campground and the Annual Plant – Book – Bake Sale at the library 9:00 am - noon on June 6. Of course, this does depend on the "Open" status of libraries in the state by that time as well as other factors for safety.

In the meantime, check our Facebook page and the front door at the library for free web sites to engage yourselves and your family; there are books available on line as well as zoo and museum sites for virtual tours; there is also a site for genealogy: libraryancestry.com that you can access from your own computer. And, as always, there is free access to the internet outside the library, 24-7, with no password.

Submitted: Shelia Atwood

Church News

New Portland Community Churches: We hope you are all well and weathering the required social restrictions without too much hardship. The ground is starting to dry up, and soon we can all be out in the garden planting. These outdoor activities in the solace of our gardens are a blessing and a joy to many. Happy planting everyone!

The church congregation has been meeting on Zoom on Sunday mornings. Online services have been worshipful, as well as entertaining as we navigate the technical issues with varied success! We have been meeting at 10:00 pm Sunday mornings for a worship service and also at 4:00 pm on Tuesday for some lively conversation around Journey of Faith. If you are interested in joining either of our online gatherings, please see the numbers below to be added to the contact list.

If there is any way the church can be of service to you in these trying times, please contact Nan or Judy at the numbers below.

Reverend Rothea Kornelius offers the following message for this 'post-Easter' season.

We just came through Easter – Christ is Risen, Alleluia! Alleluia! He is Risen Indeed!

Now that I had a little time to take a breath, I have been sitting with what comes next. What comes next since nothing really changed since Easter, at least for the world we live in. We are still physically separated – distancing in love for one another, to contain this malignant virus spreading across the globe. What is different, is that Christ has risen. But, do we really acknowledge that? Has it really become a reality in our lives?

I have always loved the story of the persons walking to Emmaus. I am not really sure why, but in some ways the story resonates with me on a very deep level. And it seems strangely appropriate now, especially with so little change in our daily routines that brings us to awareness of the living Christ and the resurrection that took place just a few days ago.

See, these two people, were walking away; they were leaving behind the drama, the pain and the grief that they just experienced; they could take no more. They just lost their beloved Master, and it seemed like all was lost. What was the use, the purpose anymore? A good man, a man who healed and loved and showed mercy and compassion, was just senselessly killed. And so, they walk the road, alone... Just like we are now,

alone and isolated. But there was a stranger with them; someone they did not recognize but who kept them company. Someone, who like deja-vu, almost seemed familiar.

And that is what I want us to focus on today. Even when we feel alone and isolated, even when we can barely make sense of the senselessness of it all at this point, even if it feels that we have been abandoned, we really have not. Jesus is walking with us, every step of the way, even when it is hard for us to recognize this at times. He is talking with us and showing us the Scriptures. He is pointing to himself in the breaking of the bread, and we recognize him. He is with is all along...

Take a moment today and just take a moment to look around, to read the Word of God, to say a prayer, or to just be quiet and feel God's presence with you. You are not alone... We are not alone... Even in the midst of our grief and pain and fear, he is walking with us all along.

If you would like to receive further reflections from Rev. Thea via US mail or email, or if you would like to join our Zoom church services, please call Nan Berry at (207)-682-6061 or Judi Batchelder at (207)-858-3628 and we can set you up.

Respectfully. . . .

Submitted: Nan Berry

The Western Mountains Baptist Church has not had Sunday services nor Bible studies nor other gatherings since March 29. As of this writing, there is no date when meeting together in person will resume. In the meantime, Pastor Tom DuBois posts Sunday morning messages on YouTube. Other options include listening to the weekly messages on the website (westernmountainschurch.org) or request to be put on the mailing list for a weekly cd. Cds are free. If interested, send your name and address by email to westernmountainbaptist@tds.net or leave a voicemail at the church, 265-2557. Messages are checked a few times during the week.

Currently, the Men's Bible study and leadership meetings are being held online via Zoom. If interested in the online study please text or call Jean Boucher at 340-8186, he will help you get connected.

The Deacons and Service Ministry stand ready to assist with financial and/or physical needs that may come up during these difficult times. If you or someone you know has a basic need that is not being met, please contact WMBC for a possible solution. If WMBC is unable to help, they may be aware of another resource that can help.

To stay on top of what is and what is not happening at WMBC for the month of May, please check out the calendar of events on the website or check out the facebook page of Western Mountains Baptist Church. Calls and emails are also encouraged with questions/concerns and prayer requests.

Pray fully we will be back to more normal circumstances by this time next month.

Submitted by Crystal Fitch

NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is May 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.



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 MAY 2020							
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
From the editor: ALL dates on this calendar are tentative, and the use of the Community Room for public meetings/events may be unavailable until further notice. Please double check prior to meeting.							
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am WMBC Bible School 9:00 am Service 10:00 am		Selectmen's Meeting via Zoom 6:30 pm	School Board Meeting 6:30 pm at Solon Elementary 6:30 pm Planning Board Meeting 6:30 pm	Recreation Committee Community Room 6:30 pm			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am WMBC Bible School 9:00 am Service 10:00 am		Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm Library Board of Trustees NPL 6:00 pm	Water District Meeting 6:30 pm				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am WMBC Bible School 9:00 am Service 10:00 am	Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm via Zoom (or Community Room)		Deadline for New Portlander Submissions 4:00 pm				
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30	
NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am WMBC Bible School 9:00 am Service 10:00 am		Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm					