



NEW PORTLANDER

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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 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 6:30pm
- **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
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

From the Editor

This is the beginning of 27 years of the *New Portlander*. It has been (and hopefully will continue be) delivered to every mailbox in the town of New Portland. A number of years ago Highland and Lexington were added to the mailing. The original goal and intent of the newsletter was to have information to the residents and voters of the town in a timely fashion. This came about as local newspapers ie. *Waterville Sentinel* and *Lewiston Sun* ceased to include local / small town sectional news in their papers.

Through the years I have worked as editor of this newsletter. There have been wonderful times and a few difficult times for New Portland and its residents. I see the *New Portlander* as important to New Portland and Highland/Lexington residents today as it was 26 years ago. In today's world of instant communication, electronics and stored data, there are still many of the town's citizens who still have a hard time accessing that information. This newsletter is a vehicle for all of us.

As I look back, I realize I have edited 313 *New Portlanders*. I have enjoyed doing this for my fellow community members, and I hope to continue doing this newsletter well into the future.

Submitted: Dallas Landry

RSU 74 / School Board

The June board meeting was held June 4 at Carrabec Community School. At the beginning, eleven board members were present in the CCS gym, and four were attending through Zoom. It was described as being a "hybrid" in person/remote meeting. Attempts were made to meet CDC guidelines with seating spread apart.

Mr. Demchak thanked the board members and community members present for allowing for the board meeting date to be changed from June 3 to June 4. He said that there will be a special board meeting on June 10, so board members can sign the budget warrants.

1 *Adjustments to the Agenda:* 1.) An agenda item for the purpose of establishing a reserve account for \$100,000 to go towards Operation of Maintenance and Plant was added to the agenda. 2.) An agenda item for the purpose of establishing a reserve account for \$50,000 to go towards Elementary Education was added. 3.) An agenda item for the purpose of establishing a reserve account for \$50,000 to go towards Secondary Education was added. 4.) An agenda item

was added to see if the board would hold an "in person" budget hearing on June 25. 5.) Board member Ellen McQuiston proposed tabling agenda item #7 - *To see if the Board will discuss directing the superintendent to create an educational plan as if the district were closing the Garret Schenck Elementary School.* This led to much discussion.

The board members attending the meeting through Zoom expressed a great deal of frustration because they were unable to hear what was being said by the members in the CCS gym. The board members in the CCS gym repeated themselves several times, and others re-stated what they had said, in hopes that the Zooming board members could be kept in the loop. It was not successful. At this point, board member David Royce decided to drive from his home to CCS to attend in person. The board meeting went into a recess, as Mr. Royce drove, and Scott Hall looked to solve the technology issues.

When the board meeting resumed, the agenda items didn't exactly go in the order that they appeared on the agenda. (This is why this board meeting recap will be a bit all over the place.)

The meeting resumed with ...

Item 4a Superintendent Report: Mr. Tracy said that the conclusion to the school year was reasonably smooth. The summer meal program will be up and running several days a week at four locations. Report cards have been mailed to families. At this time, there will be no summer activities and no summer sports. Summer sports may be able to begin around August 1.

Appointment: none

Resignation: none

Nomination: Keith Mahoney - CCS principal/6-8 AD

Mr. Tracy said there were eleven applicants. Five people interviewed. Mr. Mahoney has been a teacher/leader at Messalonskee Middle School. Mr. Mahoney was approved 14-1.

A question was asked about the Carrabec High School AD position. The CHS AD position will be a stipend position.

Item 4b Administrator Reports: Tim Richards thanked the board for moving the board meeting from Wednesday to Thursday. The video crew that filmed Class Night could not have done any day of the week other than Wednesday, so Class Night was scheduled for Wednesday, and the board meeting moved to Thursday. Mr. Richards said the Honors Banquet and Class Night had gone really well. Jean Butler thanked the staff for supporting families and students. She noted that GS teacher Dorrie Dunham applied for and received a \$20,000 grant from the Maine Barn Quilts Project. Board member Ellen McQuiston made a motion calling for the board to congratulate and commend the graduating seniors,, expressing the board's sadness that the current situation made it impossible for board members to attend graduation, and wishing the graduates the best. The motion was approved, and the board voted unanimously to pass the resolution. Scott Hall addressed laptop pickup, and said 60 laptops are still missing.

Adjustments to the Agenda: When the board meeting took a recess, the first agenda item had not been resolved. The discussion about removing the agenda item dealing with GS

resumed at this point. After much discussion, the board voted 8-7 to keep the GS agenda item on the agenda. Board member Ellen McQuiston then made a motion to direct the superintendent to create an educational plan as if the district were closing Carrabec High School. The motion was seconded, but the board voted against this proposal.

Ellen McQuiston then made another motion. This motion was for the superintendent to create a plan to send Pre-K, K, and 1st grade back to Embden and New Portland. The board did not opt to approve Mrs. McQuiston's suggestion.

#2 Minutes of the May Board Meeting: The minutes of the May board meeting were approved.

#3 Presentation: District Academic Goals - Mr. Tracy: This was postponed.

#5 Citizens: 1.) A citizen encouraged the board to open each board meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. She also encouraged all the district buildings be utilized to the greatest possible extent, as we are in a time of social distancing. 2.) Tammy Murray asked questions about upcoming agenda items 6A, 6B, 6C, and 6D. 3.) Maddie Pierce asked to speak on agenda items 6 and 7. She also encouraged the board chairman to change his demeanor. She does not feel citizen comments are appreciated or respected. She fears that not all board members support each other, and that some have their own agenda. She stated she fears illegal meetings have taken place.

#6 To see if the Board will increase the balance forward line in the proposed FY21 RSU #74 School District Budget not to exceed the amount the district saved during the Covid-19 mandated school closure. The superintendent proposed applying \$100,000 in COVID savings into the 20-21 budget. There was much discussion. Bobbie Sue Harrington said she felt that the proposed budget was "a bad budget for our kids" and lamented not enough had been done to collaborate with other districts.

The board voted 12-2 to approve moving the \$100,000 in savings to the 2020-2021 budget.

#6a Establishing a reserve account for \$100,000 to go towards Operation of Maintenance and Plant: The board approved.

#6b Establishing a reserve account for \$50,000 to go towards Elementary Education: The board approved.

#6c Establishing a reserve account for \$50,000 to go towards Secondary Education: The board approved.

#6d To see if the board will hold an in person budget hearing on June 25: The board approved.

#7 To see if the Board will discuss directing the superintendent to create an educational plan as if the district were closing Garret Schenck Elementary School. There was much discussion of this item. Mrs. McQuiston made a motion to change the motion to *To see if the Board will discuss directing the superintendent to create an educational plan as if the district were closing ANY SCHOOL.* This failed 11-3. The original language to agenda item 7 passed by a vote of 8-6.

#8 Adjournment: The meeting ended at 8:56 pm.

Submitted: Dave Ela, Carrabec Association President

NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is July 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.

New Portland Community Library

Welcome Summer!

We are glad to be open and hope you will join us for a visit soon. We are using all precautions, and the mandated regulations are posted on the door. Because everyone has been socially distanced for so long, we would love to offer an outdoor social event as our Jul fundraiser. This will allow us to enjoy the great outdoors and give ourselves plenty of room to visit with our much missed neighbors. Please join us on Wednesday, July 15 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm for a Pie & Ice Cream Social. We will offer a variety of pies and ice cream / sundae options (The majority of our items will be homemade!). The price listing is very reasonable. Sundaes 2 Scoops \$3.00; 3 Scoops \$4.00; Brownie Sundaes \$5.00; Banana Splits \$5.00; Strawberry Shortcakes \$5.00; Pie Slice \$3.50; Pie Slice A La Mode \$4.50. We would love to visit! We will, of course, wear masks and gloves while serving.

We congratulate our Library Club winners. Claybrook Lodge and Betty Cobb! We also have a Macintosh keyboard available; free for the taking, please pick up, our hours are Tuesday 9:00 am to 12:00 noon; Wednesday 4:00 to 6:00 pm; Thursday 1:00 to 3:00 pm; and Saturday 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Our contact information is telephone 628-6561 or e-mail to newportlandcl@gmail.com.

Submitted by Becky Redlvske

New Portland Churches

The Western Mountains Baptist Church began holding in-person services as of June 7, since closing the church building in March. Things are a bit different since reopening due to following the suggested guidelines given by the state. Everyone is asked to wear a face covering, (Homemade cloth masks are provided if needed.) use hand sanitizer (available throughout the church) and to maintain social distancing. Face coverings may be removed once seated but are encouraged if you choose to sing. Chairs are placed throughout the sanctuary to support a six foot separation between households. To help lower the number of people during the worship service, there are now two services offered on Sunday mornings; 9:00 and 10:30 am. Folks are welcome at either service, both have the identical sermon. All Sunday School classes are on hold for now.

In addition to attending worship services, the Sunday morning messages can be heard or seen on the WMBC website at westernmountainchurch.org. Weekly sermons are also available on YouTube. (Go to YouTube, type in Western Mountains Baptist Church. You will then see the "WMBC channel" as a winter photo of the church, click on the church, and there will be all of the videoed sermons since March 22). Recorded messages will continue to be available even though we have re-gathered in person. And as always, free cds are available to anyone wishing to get on the mailing list. Call the church or email your name and mailing address to westernmountainbaptist@tds.net

The WMBC Fourth Annual Scholarship in the amount of \$1000, was recently awarded to Mila Long Frost. Mila is a graduating senior from Mt. Abram High School. Jim Cockerham, WMBC Scholarship Committee Chair stated, "We had a record number of applicants this year; all of them were special in their own right. We wish all the graduates nothing but success and are encouraged by how many talented young people in our community. Thank you from all of us at WMBC". Yvonne Provencher, also a Mt. Abram graduating senior, was awarded the \$250 scholarship.

The Men's weekly Bible study has resumed meeting in person. Men of any age are welcome at 6:30 pm at the church on Monday night. Contact person is Jean Boucher at 340-8186. Other groups continue to be on hold or on summer break. The best way to stay informed of current happenings is to look at the calendar of events on the website: westernmountainchurch.org, or, check out the WMBC facebook page or by call the church at 265-2557.

While on the website, check out the WMBC quarterly newsletters, or submit a prayer request by clicking "Contact Us", view our Calendar of events or listen to a sermon. We are here to serve our community.

Submitted by Crystal Fitch

New Portland Community Church News: Do to an abundance of caution, and the fact that many in our congregation are especially at risk of the coronavirus, we will not be holding Sunday services in the North Village Church until at least September. We will re-evaluate the situation in the middle of August and see how everyone feels about gathering.

We have considered how to approach church suppers this summer and have decided to postpone those as well. We are disappointed that we cannot offer suppers at this time and will evaluate this situation later in the year.

That said: 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! Zoom services are found online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87009696278> for services starting at 10:00 am Sunday morning. This web address can be used each week for Sunday worship services. You can also follow along on Facebook as these services are streamed live to the Fairbanks Union Church Facebook page.

We have also been meeting for Journey of Faith on Tuesday afternoons at 4pm. The Zoom address for Tuesdays is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85809422311> Feel free to join the conversation anytime.

If you are interested in joining either of our online gatherings just sign in on Zoom. If you would like to be added to the email list for reminders and other devotional material, 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 that can be found below the following devotional.

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 New Portlander

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901 River Road
New Portland, Maine 04961

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NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR JULY 2020 DOUG KEHR PHOTO						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 WMBC Services 9:00 and 10:30 am NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am ZOOM	6 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	7 Planning Board Meeting 6:30 pm	8 School Board Meeting 6:30 pm at CCS Water District Meeting 6:30 pm	9 Recreation Committee Community Room 6:30 pm	10 4th of July	11
12 WMBC Services 9:00 and 10:30 am NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am ZOOM	13	14 Library Board of Trustees NPCL 6:00 pm Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	15	16	17	18
19 WMBC Services 9:00 and 10:30 am NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am ZOOM	20 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm Deadline for New Portlander Submissions 4:00 pm	21	22	23	24	25
26 WMBC Services 9:00 and 10:30 am NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am ZOOM	27	28 Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	29	30	31	