



# NEW PORTLANDER

INFORMATION IS THE CURRENCY OF DEMOCRACY — THOMAS JEFFERSON

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Visit the Town of New Portland's web page at [newportlandmaine.org](http://newportlandmaine.org)

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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](mailto:nwprtInd@tds.net)

#### Town Clerk: Kristen Mitchell

Email ..... [newportlandtownclerk@gmail.com](mailto:newportlandtownclerk@gmail.com)

LPI: Leo Mayo - 566-7341

#### Assessor's Agent: Mike Malesky

Monday ..... 1pm - 5pm  
Email ..... [HUDSONBAYAXE@gmail.com](mailto: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

## Town Clerk

I would like to give a huge thank you to the ballot clerks who came and helped to make the election on Tuesday, July 14 go as smoothly as possible. Planning and running an election is not an easy task especially in the times we are living now. Thank you to Marilyn Gorman, Judi Wills, Jianna Pinkham, Nancy Steuber, Winona Emery, Valerie Bossie, Dillon Wellman, and Nicole Shamaly!

*Submitted: Kristen Mitchell, Town Clerk*

## Selectmen

### Minutes for Selectmen's Meeting May 5, 2020

Selectmen Present: Raymond Poulin, Wayne Rundlett, Andrea Reichert; Present: Stacie Rundlett, (via Zoom) Brian Rundlett and Ron Sarner.

1. Call the meeting to order: Andrea called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.
2. Review Minutes from previous meeting: Raymond motioned to accept the minutes as written, Wayne seconded and all were in favor.
3. Old Business:- There was none.
4. Department Heads: Wayne noted to the board that Kip was still looking at options for new turnout gear.
5. Items by the Public: There were none.
6. Items by the Town Manager: The board reviewed and signed payroll and accounts payable warrants.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen:
  - a. The board discussed their options for the applications submitted for the Interim Assessor's Agent position. After a thorough discussion the board felt that Tom Walker would be best candidate for the position currently and asked Stacie to contact him and schedule an interview.
  - b. The board discussed the Winter Sand Proposal ad and decided to keep the amount of sand at 3700 cubic yards. The ad is to reflect bids to be received and opened at the July 7 selectmen's meeting.

- c. The board discussed an abatement request from Maine Timber Mats for 2018 and 2019 property taxes for (former business) USAccess. Former Assessor's Agent Audra Swanson assisted the board with this matter, and they reviewed her suggestion to not grant an abatement request, which was to deny due to the fact that an abatement request needs to be filed in a timely manner within 185 days per Maine State Property Tax Law Title 36 §841. They requested an abatement for both years on March 11, 2020.
- d. There was a discussion regarding the valuation on Nona Young's property and question about a high assessment. The board will be reviewing the matter prior to commitment and need to do a site visit.
- e. Stacie discussed with the board her proposal to have the office open normal business hours again. She suggested that they have a sanitation area outside of the office door, a plexiglass partition at the front counter, and only one person in the building at a time to keep everyone the six feet apart. After each person leaves the area and pens will need to be sanitized again before the next person enters the building.
- f. Andrea discussed with the board the need to review all documents from the engineer, specifically the field reports. Stacie would review all of her documents and have them available for the board.

Adjourn the meeting: 7:07 pm.

*These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the June 2nd meeting. Smr*

## Minutes for the Selectmen's Meeting June 2, 2020

Selectmen Present: Raymond Poulin, Wayne Rundlett, Andrea Reichert; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Judi Wills, Buffi Phillips, Brian Rundlett

- 1. Call the meeting to order: Andrea called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.
- 2. Review minutes from previous meeting: Raymond motioned to accept the minutes as written, Wayne seconded and all were in favor.
- 3. Old Business: There was none.
- 4. Department Heads: Stacie presented to the Board of Selectmen Appointment Papers from the Town Clerk.
  - a. Andrea motioned to appoint John Dimers-Linder as a Ballot Clerk for a two year term, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.
  - b. Andrea motioned to appoint Valerie Pinkham as a Ballot Clerk for a two year term, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.
  - c. Andrea motioned to appoint Nancy Steuber as a Ballot Clerk for a two year term, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.

- d. Andrea motioned to appoint Stacie Rundlett as a Ballot Clerk for a two year term, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.
- e. Andrea motioned to appoint Winona Emery as a Ballot Clerk for a two year term, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.
- f. Andrea motioned to appoint Rose Hendrix as a Ballot Clerk for a two year term, Raymond 2nd and all were in favor.
- g. Andrea motioned to appoint Judi Wills as a Ballot Clerk for a two year term, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.
- h. Andrea motioned to appoint Cheryl Browne as a Ballot Clerk for a two year term, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.
- i. Andrea motioned to appoint Marilyn Gorman as a Ballot Clerk for a two year term, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.
- j. Andrea motioned to appoint Stacie Rundlett as Code Enforcement Officer and Health Officer for a one year term, Raymond 2nd and all were in favor.
- k. Andrea motioned to appoint Brian Rundlett as a Planning Board member for a three year term, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.
- l. Andrea motioned to appoint Peter Gardiner as a Planning Board member for a three year term, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.

5. Items by the Public: There were none.

6. Items by the Town Manager:

- a. The board reviewed and signed payroll and accounts payable warrants.
- b. The board reviewed and signed the Treasurer's Reports for February and March.

7. Items by the Board of Selectmen:

- a. The board discussed the two quotes they received for the door of the sand/salt shed.

After discussions on the quotes Raymond motioned to go with Overhead Door for the amount of \$12,579.00.

- b. There was a discussion regarding a small structure for storage of public sand. The board would walk around behind the fire station area to see where it might be able to be placed. The board asked Stacie to consult with the current winter plow contractor to see what his thoughts are for placement as well.
- c. Andrea also reviewed the files from the engineer for the sand/salt shed to confirm any follow ups that we should be doing with the building.

Adjourn the meeting: 6:57 pm.

*These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the June 15th meeting. smr*

*Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager*

**NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is August 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.

## RSU 74 / School Board

The July school board meeting was held at Carrabec Community School.

Two new members joined the board: Danika Bates of New Portland and Larry Dunphy of Embden.

1. To see if the Board will elect a chair and vice chair: Troy Dunphy was elected as chair and Bob Demchak was elected as vice chair.
2. Adjustments to the agenda: At the behest of board member Ellen McQuiston, an item was added to the end of the agenda. The new item was a discussion of teacher mentoring.
3. To see if the Board will approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 4, 2020, the Special Board Meeting of June 10, 2020, and the Special Board Meeting of June 25, 2020: At the behest of board member Ellen McQuiston, the motion to approve all three meetings in one vote was changed to three separate votes, one for each meeting. The minutes of all three meetings were ultimately approved.
4. Presentation: There was no presentation at the July meeting.
5. Reports: Mr. Tracy told the board that he has been in numerous meetings which have dealt with the topic of reopening schools. He has met with local superintendents and the commissioner of education. There are more meetings to come. It seems most of the districts in the area are hoping to resume in-person education in the fall with a remote option. Mr. Tracy believes it is likely at the August meeting he will ask the board to approve this concept. A survey was sent to families asking for their feedback regarding distance education. To this point, there have only been 67 responses. **The Budget Referendum will be held on Tuesday, July 14. Voting will take place from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm.** Mr. Tracy encouraged everyone to vote. Teacher mentoring was discussed at this time. All new teachers (either new to the profession or new to the district) will have a mentor. In the past, there was one teacher mentor for the whole district. The plan for '20-'21 is to have a teacher mentor in each building. The teacher mentors will help new teachers as they become acclimated to the job, and mentors will facilitate professional development for the new teachers. Board member Ellen McQuiston expressed concern that each new teacher should have their own specific mentor that taught the same grade level and/or content.

Appointments: Chudala Holden - IEP coordinator; Grace Cram - 504 coordinator; Katie Hall - Advisory Dean, CHS; Candy Lebeau - Yearbook Advisor, CCS; Kim Cole - Yearbook Advisor, CHS; Jen Lachance - Lead Teacher, Solon; Dorrie Dunham - Lead Teacher, GS; Michelle Stevens - New Teacher Mentor, Solon; Stacey Robinson - New Teacher Mentor, CHS; Priscilla Ellis - New Teacher Mentor, CCS; Tanya Carey - New Teacher Mentor, GS; Mary Keenan - Ed Tech Authorization Chair; Brian Twitchell - Certification Chair; Amy Price - ed tech 2 to ed tech 3.

Nominations: Lindsay Burke-Cinsov - District Music Teacher; Taylor Savage - Fourth Grade, CCS.

Admin Reports: Jean Butler commented on the summer Food Hubs, which are located at CCS, GS, and Solon. The

Good Shepherd Food Bank has once again donated food to RSU 74. Beth Higgins and Alicia Bedard organized the first Drive Thru Food Give Away, which was held at CHS on July 7. This was for anyone who lived in the district, not just families of students. 45 people attended. Amy Cates, Jessie Cates, Mike Golden and Alicia Golden helped with this event. Beth Higgins wrote a grant to obtain funding for homeless families. She was awarded \$5,000. Keith Mahoney has begun work as the new principal at CCS. Mahoney said that Somerset Public Health has contributed \$400 that will help go towards the creation of a sensory hallway. Brian Twitchell has been working with people from other WMEC schools. Together they are creating a certification handbook. The handbook will be adapted for use in RSU 74.

Committees: None met recently.

6. Public Participation: No one spoke.
7. To see if the Board will approve Madison Health Center as the School Physician. This was approved.
8. To see if the Board would like to state the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of every board meeting. This was approved.
9. To see if the Board will increase the Property & Casualty Insurance and Auto Liability deductible to \$1000 from \$500. This was approved.
10. To see if the Board will discuss the handbook changes. Last year, at the behest of board member Ellen McQuiston, some changes were made to the school/student handbooks. The board briefly discussed the 2020-2021 handbooks.
11. To see if the Board will discuss the ESEA application. Jean Butler gave an overview of the ESEA application. RSU 74 will receive \$472,000 from the federal government in 20-21.
- 11a. More Teacher Mentor Talk: This was the agenda item added at the behest of board member Ellen McQuiston. It appears that I did not take any notes during this agenda item. I do not recall that anything particularly different was discussed than during agenda item five, when teacher mentoring came up the first time.
12. Adjournment: I did take notes on this item. The board meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

*Submitted: Dave Ela, Carrabec Association President*

### Lexington/Highland Historical Society

Due to the pandemic, the Lexington/Highland Historical Society will not be opening the museum as in the past. Anyone interested in a museum visit is asked to schedule an appointment by calling 207-465-8238 or e-mail: pinkeb@roadrunner.com. We are pleased to arrange a visit at your convenience.

*Submitted: Barbara Pinkham*

## Citizens Corner

The *New Portlander* was made available to all citizens in July 2020, and this edition had an article from the editor of the *New Portlander*.

Dallas Landry shared the long history of the *New Portlander* being edited and delivered to all residents and voters of the town. His article is wonderful and shares what he has put into this, so all citizens could be aware of all events and meetings.

This is not something he decided to do on his own. The Municipal Advisory Board had worked on how to connect people in town and have citizens attend selectmen meetings, upcoming events, etc.

It was difficult in this town for all to know information. So, at that time conversations were shared to help make all citizens aware and encourage them to participate in town events.

This is when Dallas took on the project of sharing information through the *New Portlander*. MAC worked with him and saw a great result in communications and citizens attending meetings and participating in town events.

New Portland has something few towns have. Dallas still loves doing this and as he put in the editor's note, he hopes to continue doing this newsletter into the future.

*Submitted: Judi Wills*

## New Portland Community Library

Greetings New Portlanders!

We would like to thank all who attended and donated to the ice cream/pie social Wednesday July 15. It was wonderful to see everyone enjoying conversation and the beautiful evening outside. We raised \$157.00 from purchases and donations which was very much appreciated as most of our operating budget comes from fundraisers each year.

Please note, Sheila will be placing an order for new books; feel free to stop in or call to check out the status of your favorite authors. We have added several new movies for your enjoyment as well. I must say that Sheila has amazing knowledge of what is available at the library and other resources available with a few questions she can make excellent recommendations for your reading or viewing pleasure. The library cards are still free and there is a two week check out period for all items. We have a "free" table as you walk in the door and a backroom of books available for purchase by donation. There is still a free metal shelf available which would work well for craft, basement, or garage storage. Pictures are available on the Facebook page.

The Library Club winners for July are Gary Cobb and Ezra Pease. Congratulations!

We hope that during this crazy time that you take advantage of this gem of a library and search out history, adventure, deep learning, or fun fluff to escape the stress during this odd year of 2020; we are here for you! Of course, we ask that you review the poster on the entry door of updated mandates concerning CDC ruling for our space but keep in mind our staff cleans the space, books, and movies regularly and "quarantines" returned books as mandated. Your peace of mind, health, and enjoyment is our pleasure! Have a wonderful month.

Summer Hours: Tuesday 9:00 am – 12 noon, Wednesday 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Thursday 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, and Saturday 9:00 am – 12 noon. Please reach out by calling 628-6561 or e-mail at [newportlandcl@gmail.com](mailto:newportlandcl@gmail.com)

*Submitted by: Becky Knowles-Redlevske*

## New Portland Churches

The Western Mountains Baptist Church continues to meet in person every Sunday morning at 9:00 am and at 10:30 am. Both services have the same message and worship songs. So far, the Sunday services have had somewhat equal participation, so there is plenty of room for attendees at either service. No set date yet for when WMBC will go back to holding one service.

At the time of this writing, preparations are being made for the fourth annual river rafting trip on the Kennebec River. After church on July 26, interested folks are invited to join in some water fun beginning in Solon and getting out in Embden. Historically, this has been a fun afternoon spent with friends and family playing in the river followed by a potluck dinner.

The Women's Fellowship Ministry has begun meeting the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 1:00 pm. Women of all ages are welcome. The invitation is open to all women. Take note that being a part of the/a church is not required. There is a short Bible study especially for women and arts/crafts activities.

Bridging the Gap continues to provide monthly meals to folks who are elderly or find it difficult to get out of their homes. This month and next, July and August, the volunteers are providing a picnic lunch at WMBC for BTG participants. Social distancing will be encouraged. For those who cannot or are not yet comfortable meeting, chef salads will be offered and delivered. This free service is offered the fourth Saturday of the month. To sign up for some home-cooked deliciousness, call Cathy at 678-2442 or Jeff at 678-2028.

To find out more about Western Mountains Church, checkout the website at [westernmountainschurch.org](http://westernmountainschurch.org). On this site you will find a current calendar of events, WMBC newsletters, recorded messages and a link to the video messages that have been recorded to YouTube. Pastor Tom DuBois is available at the church during the week, 265-2557 or feel free to call his cell phone: 557-3802.

*Submitted: Crystal Fitch*

New Portland Community Church News: Maine has done a really good job controlling the coronavirus spread, we wouldn't want to blow it now. The New Portland Community Church congregation will do their part against community transmission and continue to meet on Zoom for the month of August. Here is the link for the weekly worship services held at 10:00 am on Sunday morning: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87009696278> The worship service is also streamed live on the Fairbanks Union Church Facebook page.

The link to Journey of Faith Bible Study, which is held on Tuesdays at 4:00 pm, is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85809422311> Attending Zoom meetings will require you to download the Zoom app. The link will instruct you on how to do this. It doesn't take much time or space. If you prefer, the links can be emailed or text messaged to your phone. Phone numbers to set this up can be found at the end of this article.

A devotional from Rev. Rothea  
Kornelius:

**PSALM 46:8-10**

(The Message)

Attention, all! See the marvels of God!

He plants flowers and trees all over the earth,

Bans war from pole to pole,  
breaks all the weapons across his knee.

"Step out of the traffic! Take a long,  
loving look at me, your High God,  
above politics, above everything."

We know this better as "Be still, and know  
that I am God..."

Having some time off this last week took me to Kennebunk. I had a lot of time to spend by myself. (I am not always sure if too much alone time is a good or a bad thing....). That meant a lot of time to hike, to think, to read, to be still... And if I am honest, I cannot remember when last I really did that.

I know that these past four months have been different for all of us. Some of us finding time to do the things that we have long set aside. Some of us beside ourselves with anxiety and worry, wondering when and if things will ever return to normal. And some of us had a double of our work load – being parents while working at home, taking responsibilities on to care for others. Our minds all the time running around non-stop.

This past week gave me a lot of silent time. It also made me realize why we don't dare sit still in silence long enough to have our thoughts and feelings bubble up inside us, and spending time in that mess. It is easier to keep busy and not

pay attention - at least, it is for me. The reason being, when it all comes to the forefront, it is not always pretty.

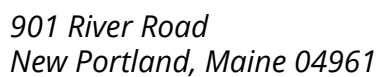
What I also realized, is if we can sit in the stillness long enough, God shows up. God shows up when we are still long enough and give God space to enter. In that stillness, the soul that longs for God commune with God and are being fed. In that stillness, God shows up and shows us that we were formed in God's image, and with that, God is well pleased. When we are still long enough we find hope and courage, love and joy and a way into the future that is being transformed before our eyes.

So, this summer, also take some time to be still. Be still long enough not notice God again, to find joy in God's presence, to feel the love of God washing over you and caring for you. This summer, like Elijah, step into a place where God is in the stillness of the breeze. So turn of the radio or the TV, get of social media or the internet, put down that good book for a few minutes and sit still. Sit in complete silence and see if you can hear God inside yourself again - truly experiencing God and what God wants to offer you. Take 10 minutes, if that is you all you can stomach now, and open up and know that "I am God". You are enough, God loves you and care deeply for you. God wants to lighten the load and give you hope for the future. God wants some of your undivided attention to share all of this. So, I dare you – be still.... "Be still, and know that I am God."

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 and bible study, please call Nan Berry at (207)-682-6061 or Judi Batchelder at (207)-858-3628 and we can set you up.

*Submitted: Nan Berry*





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