



# NEW PORTLANDER

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E-mail: [nwprtInd@tds.net](mailto: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](http://newportlandmaine.org)

PUBLICATION VOLUME 27 • NUMBER 3 • SEPTEMBER 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](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

## Town Manager

The town office will not be open on September 5 and 7 in observance of Labor Day.

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett

## Selectmen

### Minutes for the Selectmen's Meeting June 15, 2020

Selectmen Present: Raymond Poulin, Wayne Rundlett, Andrea Reichert; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Marilyn Gorman, Kristen Mitchell, Janet and Roger White

1. Call the meeting to order: Andrea called the meeting to order at 6:39 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. Items by the Public: Janet and Roger White talked to the board regarding the Wire Bridge Memorial Park Project. They have concerns regarding this project because of traffic and do not support this project. The Board of Selectmen and Stacie updated Janet and Roger that at this time the project was not moving forward as the town did not have enough matching funds. Janet also voiced her concerns on the old Agren property across the street from her house and the issue with rats and groundhogs. At this time there is nothing that can be done, but Stacie will research the matter to see if it can be addressed from health standards and update Janet with any new information.
5. Items by the Town Manager: a. The board reviewed and signed payroll warrants. b. The board reviewed and signed the Treasurer's Reports for April and May.
6. Items by the Board of Selectmen: a. The board discussed the interview that they had with Tom Walker for the Assessor's Agent position. They unanimously decided to offer him the position. They asked Stacie to contact him and see if he would take the job starting at \$35, and if not, the max she is authorized to offer is \$45. The board also asked Stacie to find out from Overhead Door, when the Sand Salt Shed door might be installed.  
Adjourn the meeting- 7:12 pm.

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

## 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 .....9am - Noon  
Wednesday .....4pm - 6pm  
Thursday .....1pm -3pm  
Saturday.....9am - Noon
- **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

## Minutes for the Selectmen's Meeting July 7, 2020

Selectmen Present: Raymond Poulin, Wayne Rundlett, Andrea Reichert (via phone, part of meeting.) Present: Stacie Rundlett, Brian Rundlett, Gary Agren, Kip Poulin, Josh Nunes, Brent Davenport

1. Call the meeting to order: Wayne 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: Wayne motioned to approve Jethro Poulin as Fire Chief, Raymond seconded it and all were in favor.
4. Department Heads: Gary Agren updated the board on a paving quote for Hancock Pond Road. from Fine Line Paving. There was a discussion regarding funds available for this project and the board was fine with Gary moving forward with it Gary updated the board on work being done to the grader and that it was a temporary fix to get by. He also discussed with the board work that was being done on the Middle Road. Kip Poulin updated the board on repairs that were being done to tanker and other small repairs on equipment. He discussed with the board that the department received a small donation and was using the funds to purchase a new washer and dryer for their gear. Their gear cannot be washed with normal detergent or machine. He updated the board that the turnout gear had been ordered. There was also a brief discussion regarding a conversation he had with Lifelight and possible site for landing zone.
5. Items by the Public: There was none.
6. Items by the Town Manager: a. The board reviewed and signed payroll and accounts payable warrants. b. Stacie discussed with the board that Jim Tindall had interest in fixing the town sign on Rte 16. The board felt it was ok for him to start that. c. Stacie discussed with the board that she had sent out a couple of Non-Compliant Notices for the Building Notification Ordinance. She stressed the importance of people pulling a permit prior to building so the assessing department would be aware of any and all new building. She also suggested that maybe the board and planning board look at amending the ordinance regarding the "after the fact" fee. That fee should be more if one does not comply with the ordinance. That could be something to have at the 2021 annual town meeting.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen: a. The board opened and reviewed the Winter Sand Bids
  1. JR Nunes for \$10 per yard, 2. Cousineau's for \$13.25 per yard, 3. JR Davenport Trucking for \$10.49 per yard, 4. Fenwick Construction for \$12.50 per yard. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed amounts per yard. Stacie notified Andrea via phone the amounts and Andrea motioned for JR Davenport, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.The board and Stacie decided to cancel the next meeting as two people would be on vacation.  
Adjourn the meeting- 7:02 pm.

*These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the 08/04/2020 meeting. smr*

## Minutes for Selectmen's Meeting August 4, 2020

Selectmen Present: Raymond Poulin, Wayne Rundlett, Andrea Reichert; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Brian Rundlett, Kip Poulin, Marilyn Gorman.

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: a. Re: the public sand building - The board discussed where to place the public sand building, the signs to be made for safety and the policy for how many buckets per storm. b. Re: the supplies for community room - Stacie discussed with the board the need for tables and other supplies in the community room. Andrea motioned to authorize supplies to be purchased, not to exceed \$1,000 from T.I.F. funds. Raymond seconded and all were in favor. c. Re: the finishing work for sand salt shed building - The board discussed the work to be done to finish the sand salt shed building, per the engineers' recommendations. d. Re: discussions on KVCOG Hazardous Household Day in October - Stacie presented to the board another opportunity for residents to get rid of their hazardous household waste, but at the cost of \$1400 to the town and the location for this event would not be in New Portland. After discussing the matter in more detail, the board decided that the recent event held at the KNTS was good for now and that usually most things could be left at the KNTS if a resident really needed to dispose of it.
4. Department Heads: Kip Poulin updated the board on training that was recently done and how they discovered an issue on tanker 1. He has made arrangements to take care of the repair. He also updated the board on the new washer and dryer which were bought through grant funds and he expected them to arrive soon. He also expects the gear that they ordered to arrive soon as well.
5. Items by the Public: There was 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 June.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen: a. Review and sign Fire Protection Agreement between Somerset County and Town of New Portland. The board reviewed and signed the agreement. b. There was a lengthy discussion on options to remedy an ongoing issue at the Wire Bridge with a resident who lives near there and the complaints that this resident is harassing people and blocking traffic on the bridge.  
Adjourn the meeting- 7:55 pm.

*These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the August 17th meeting. smr*

*Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager*

**NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is September 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 August board meeting held at CHS was a four-hour event. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Minutes: The minutes of the July board meeting were approved.*

**Student Presentation:** Callie Bassett, a student at Garrett Schenck, spoke to the board. As part of a Genius Hour project, she and her classmates have been trying to solve problems. Her focus has been on the crosswalks near GS. She would like them to be repainted in order to make them more visible to drivers. Too often cars drive right through the crosswalk without slowing down for walkers. Callie is concerned about this safety hazard. She recently spoke to the selectmen of Anson about this and has now brought her concern to the school board.

**Reports:** Superintendent Tracy mentioned that Policy EEAA, which concerns walkers, will have to be adjusted when the new school year begins. A survey will be going out to parents very soon to determine how many plan to send their children back for in-person instruction, and how many prefer to have their children doing remote instruction when the year begins.

**Admin Reports:** Tim Richards, CHS, stated the hope is for a successful return to school. He noted that it is challenging to plan for '20-21 when the guidance from the Department of Education seems to change daily. Jean Butler, Solon & GS, discussed the second Drive Thru Food Give-Away. 58 families were served. She thanked the Good Shepherd Food Bank for donating the food. Lorie Agren asked for patience when the school year begins. There will be a lot of changes. The direction from the DOE seems to change quite frequently which will also cause changes. She hopes that if parents have concerns, they will contact her. Lorie praised the work that her staff has been doing all summer. Scott Hall said that new computers have been ordered, but it is impossible to know when they will arrive, as there have been many shipping delays. Keith Mahoney, CCS, echoed the sentiments of the other administrators and said he is working to get to know the CCS staff.

**Appointments:** Jack Kaplan-Will Power, CHS; Judi Dunphy-Will Power (volunteer) assistant; Heidi Vicneire-CHS girls' soccer; Blaise Kandiko-Cross country, CHS; Skip Rugh-CHS varsity girls' basketball; Dulcie Welch -CHS jv girls' basketball; Mike Cahill -CHS volunteer assistant girls' basketball; Erik Carey-CHS varsity boys' basketball; Erik Carey-CHS baseball; Andrew Ferrari-CHS jv boys' basketball; Doug Larlee -CHS unified basketball; Amy Price-CHS girls' tennis; Lauren Heullitt-CHS track and field; Heidi Day-CCS girls' soccer; Kelly Baker -CCS girls' basketball; Doug Larlee-CCS softball; PJ Vicneire -CHS boys' soccer; Stacey McCluskey-STEAM lead teacher, Solon; Rich Reichenbach-STEAM lead teacher, CCS; Jasmyn Wagg -STEAM lead teacher, GS; Marc Collard -CHS math team coach; Brian Twitchell-instructional coach.

To see if the board will approve the computations and declaration of the votes for the 2020-2021 budget. The board approved.

To see if the board will approve the back to school plan. Early on it was decided that the plan would not be approved at the August meeting. A special board meeting has been scheduled for August 12 at CHS. (The presentation of the plan and discussion of the plan by Mr. Tracy, administrators, and the board took up most of the four hours. I do not believe that I am talented enough to give a word for word summary of nearly four hours of discussion ...I will try to hit the highlights of the tentative plan and the highlights of board discussion ...) Under the plan that the superintendent presented, all students in k-5 and 9-12 will attend school every day. Because class sizes in 6-8 are so large (more than 20+ per homeroom), 6-8 students will have an alternating day schedule, with half of 6-8 attending school one day,

the other half attending school another day.

Elements of the plan: (Again, not the entire plan, just "highlights") 1.) Symptom Screening and Training: The DOE requires that a checklist be provided to students, families and staff. Anyone presenting COVID symptoms should not report to school. (It appears to be the consensus of the board that each school will conduct a temperature check of everyone entering the building.) 2.) Masks/ Face Coverings: A DOE requirement for in person instruction to occur is that adults and students wear masks. A shield may be possible if medical reasons exist. Questions were raised regarding how it will be handled when a student refuses to wear a mask. RSU 74 will be providing masks. 3.) Physical Distancing: Students must remain three feet apart. Students must be six feet apart when eating. Adults must maintain six feet of distance. Obviously, with large class-sizes, distancing requirements can be challenging. Water fountains and lockers will be off limits. 4.) Hand Hygiene: There will be a lot of hand-washing going on. And companies that sell sanitizer are (I am guessing) going to be making record profits. 5.) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): If staff must work in close proximity to students they will need to have PPE. RSU 74 will provide PPE. 6.) Returning to School After Illness Protocol: The DOE is working with districts to create a plan for how to respond in the event there is a case of Covid-19. 7.) Hybrid/Remote Learning: The proposed plan for 6-8 would be a hybrid, a mixture of in person and remote learning. All families in the district will be given the option to keep their kids at home and participate in remote learning instead of in person instruction. This time, the work will be graded. There will be daily contact between remote learners and school personnel. Remote work should be similar to the learning going on at school. Questions were raised regarding how a teacher would balance in person instruction with remote learning; would it take additional time? Mr. Tracy expects that it will. He raised the possibility of looking to find additional prep time or perhaps additional compensation to offset the potential increase in workload. (Again, there was far more

### Town Clerk

The State is now allowing me to take requests for Absentee Ballots for the upcoming November 3 Election.

The following is a couple of ways that you can complete an application:

The link to the absentee ballot application is <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/>. The application is available in both Word and pdf fillable format.

1. The application is available as a Word document (print and complete and sign by hand) or in pdf fillable format (complete on-line and then print off and sign).
2. The application has to be signed (It cannot contain a computer-generated signature.) and sent to the Clerk either by mail, fax or email or delivered in person (following the town's protocols for COVID).
3. It CANNOT be completed from the fillable pdf and emailed without an actual signature; the Clerk has to verify the signature of the voter or the application is rejected.
4. You can come into the office during regular office hours to complete an Absentee Ballot Application.

*Submitted: Kristen Mitchell, Town Clerk*



to the plan and to the discussion than I have outlined here. Nothing is finalized. Certainly staff members with questions, feedback or concerns should think about attending the special board meeting next week.

To see if the Board will approve the 2020-2021 athletic season. Due to the length of the board meeting, this item was tabled until Wednesday's special board meeting.

Citizens comments: There were comments but due to the length of the meeting (we were approaching the four hour mark) and the knowledge that there would be another special board meeting on Wednesday, August 12, the comments were limited. One question was whether citizens would be allowed to speak at the special board meeting (They will be.), and there was a comment from a teacher thanking board members for seeming to grasp that balancing in person and remote instruction will be a significant increase to teacher workload.

Adjournment: At about 10:00 pm the meeting ended.

## Special Board Meeting August 12

The special board meeting was held at CCS. Officially there were two meetings; one to deal with sports and the other to tackle the back to school plan. The evening began at 6:00 pm, and the end came at 9:44 pm.

(Just like last week, any attempt to adequately capture all the discussion that took place would be far beyond my abilities. Therefore, I will limit this to just the highlights. Actually, it might be more accurate to say that I will limit this to only the highlights that deal with the decisions that were made last night. In particular, I will outline anything different from the discussion of last week.)

1. The board voted to approve athletics. This approval is contingent upon MPA guidelines being followed. As of this moment it is not clear what the MPA will decide regarding sports. (The MPA decision may come as early as today.)

2. The board voted to approve a "back to school plan", and the "remote learning plan" that is part of the "back to school plan".
  3. Temperatures will be checked upon entering the buildings.
  - 4a. K-8: Half the kids/alternating days: Cohort A = Tue and Thu, Cohort B = Wed and Fri. Student day ends at 12:30 pm. Teachers and staff will remain until contract end time. During the time that students are not present, the focus will be on planning and remote learning contacts and preparation. Staff will report to their buildings on Monday without students. Monday expectations will be similar to those described above.
  - 4b. 9-12: Half the kids/alternating day schedule. Student day ends at 12:30 pm. Teachers and staff will remain until contract end time. During the time that students are not present, the focus will be on planning and remote learning contacts and preparation. At CHS, students will be present on Monday. The CHS teacher schedule will contain a period each day for teachers to do remote learning work. This remote learning period is considered to be the equivalent of Monday for k-8 staff. Unlike during the spring, attendance, grading and new learning will be expectations of remote learning.
- Mr. Tracy will be holding a (voluntary) staff Zoom on Monday at 10: am to discuss the "back to school plan".

*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 email [pinkeb@roadrunner.com](mailto:pinkeb@roadrunner.com). We are pleased to arrange a visit at your convenience.

*Submitted: Barbara Pinkham*

## New Portland Community Library

Happy Day, New Portlanders! We would like you to know we have obtained over 80 new titles in book and movie form. This does include writings by Maine authors. The library director has been reading many and would love to talk about reviews.

Patronage has slowly been picking up, thank you! We are still mindful of Maine's CDC and library rules. Therefore, we do ask if you touch an item during your visit, please place any unwanted choices on the circulation desk. We will clean and quarantine as appropriate, your trust and safety is our concern.

Good News! The inter-library loan program is once again available for any items we do not own. There is no charge for this service and the drop-off and pick-up day will be every Thursday.

Please keep in mind our director will work to assist or suggest options for resources on subjects like genealogy research, becoming more independent with gardening and home needs, and travel destination or location interest information. She will also work with you to help sign up for and connect to on-line classes.

Congratulations to the August Library Club winners: Bonnie Frick and Claybrook Mtn. Lodge!

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation with our staff during this time. Please contact us with questions or concerns: 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) Respectfully...

## Citizens Corner

In the July issue of the *New Portlander*, an article was written in which I shared with all citizens what Dallas Landry has done over the years.

A plaque was presented to Dallas for all the years he has edited the *New Portlander*.

As a citizen of New Portland, a plaque was presented to Dallas for the years of editing the *New Portlander*. The plaque was presented to him at his home due to possible Covid-19 exposure at meetings. I requested money from the Recreation Program to purchase the plaque.

I hope all citizens will join in thanking him for his years of editing the *New Portlander* over past 27 years.

*Submitted: Judi Wills*

I would like to extend a warm "thank you" to the community of New Portland for the wonderful plaque which was given to me for my work with the *New Portlander*. A special "thank you" to Judi Wills and Marilyn Gorman for their "special" thoughts and kindness. I, personally, enjoyed the conversation. Again, "thank you to all."

*Submitted: Dallas Landry*

## New Portland Churches

At Western Mountains Baptist Church we are excited to be going back to having one service at our regular time of 10:00 am. Since reopening in June we have had two services to limit the number of people in the sanctuary at the same time. As of now, the sanctuary is divided into two rooms to allow more people to participate in one service and to continue the CDC recommendations of social distancing, etc. Beginning August 23 and going forward, we will meet at 10:00 am.

The Prison Ministry at WMBC is now meeting on a regular basis to discuss and help provide re-entry options for people who have served their time and now returning to live in community. Meetings are held a couple of times each month, the next meeting is August 31. If interested in learning more about the Prison Ministry please feel free to show up at WMBC at 5:30 pm or call Dale at 578-0289. "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was as a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me." Matthew 25:35-36

On September 17, the Ladies Bible study starts up again after being on a summer break. Any woman is welcome to join; you don't have to attend this church in order to participate. The study starts at 9:00 am and goes until 10:30 ish. Call Betsy at 678-2328 for more information.

For more information about Western Mountains Baptist Church visit our facebook page, checkout our website at [www.westernmountainschurch.org](http://www.westernmountainschurch.org) or email: [pastorwmbsc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwmbsc@gmail.com). Sunday morning worship services begin at 10:00 am. Come as you are.

*Submitted: Crystal Fitch*

New Portland Community Church News September 2020: The New Portland Church has voted to forego another month of in-person services. We hope it will be possible to safely meet in October. 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. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85809422311> Attending Zoom meetings on your device 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. Please call Nan Berry at (207)-682-6061 or Judi Batchelder at (207)-858-3628 and we can set you up.

Please read on for a devotional, based on verses from Exodus 14, from Rev. Rothea Kornelius:

Exodus 14:11-14 They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt?"

12 Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."

13 But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again.

14 The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

DEVOTION: Lately, I have thought a lot about liminal spaces - maybe, because sitting in this kind of space is where we find ourselves. The word, "liminality" comes from the Latin word *limen*, which means "threshold." It is like standing at the door of a new building - you have not quite entered yet, but you did not leave the sidewalk yet, either. That is liminal space. The space in between...

We all find ourselves in liminal spaces at times, but I am not sure that we ever find ourselves in the same liminal space, all at the same time. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted life for every one of us.

Children are home from school, and we are unsure about when and how it will start again. College classes have moved online. Sporting events, theater productions, concerts, all are on the back burner. Many are working from home. Church gatherings are still only hesitantly happening, and buildings are re-opening very slowly. Restaurants are mostly only open for outdoor or take away dining. Visitors to hospitals and nursing homes are still discouraged and people are dying without their families. Some are putting their lives on the line daily to take care of the sick or our needs to survive during this time.

We are definitely not out of the woods, and yet we are starting to move forward. The way life was, lies behind us, and will probably never be the way it was, ever again. This is where the whole experience of Israel in the wilderness after leaving Egypt seems so appropriate to me... the old testament speaks to us today. Israel has been liberated from Egypt as slaves and are going to the promised land - Canaan. All that they knew about who they were, how to survive their daily lives, what is expected of them has been stripped when they escaped. It was good news, but it left them vulnerable and uncertain, not knowing how to live in this new space. Their way to freedom became a 40 year journey through the wilderness. A journey between what they left and where they were going. A journey full of doubt and pain, anger and survival; trying to cling to a faith that God will be there and yet doubting that it is true. But God is not in a hurry to lead them out of liminal space and into the land he promised to give them. They're not ready yet.

God speaks to them in this situation - in their need. He leads them with fire and cloud, he provided water and manna. He answers their questions about human existence in new ways, offers himself as the solution their needs of guidance, protection, provision and revealing how key his name is to their identity and vocation as people of Yahweh. God works with them to trust him and walk into a new direction as he guides them day by day. He walks with them through the experience of already and not-yet, preparing them away from the distractions of Egypt where they can be quiet in the isolation and hear the voice of God - to become who they were meant to be.

COVID may just be that experience for us. Yes, it is a tragedy; yes it is an inconvenience; yes it is isolated and lonely. It sits between what was and whatever it is that lies in the uncertainty around us to the place and the people we are supposed to be. Yes, the pandemic brings death, but the pandemic brings opportunities... Opportunities to be still long enough to hear the voice of God. Opportunities in our uncertainty to learn new ways of being and to learn to trust God in the path he wants to lead us to a promised land, rather than longing for what was. We have the opportunity to experience God in new ways, and be transformed by opening us to the Holy Spirit, with all of our "normal" routines turned upside down.

We are smack in the middle of our own liminal season, together as the church. May we take this time, listening for the voice of God, being open to being led in new ways, and becoming what God intends for us to be - his beloved children in this community. Stripped from our Sunday routines, may we rediscover the truth that God is with us, even if it is not in our building.

I pray that we may all take the opportunity in this liminal time - the time of already gone and not yet... this time of uncertainty that feels so uncomfortable, to turn back and remember that God is with us in this space; that he leads us to exciting new places if we are just willing to hear his voice and follow where he leads.

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*



# 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 SEPTEMBER 2020						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	2 School Board Meeting 6:30 pm at CHS Planning Board Meeting 6:30 pm	3 Recreation Committee Community Room 6:30 pm	4	5 Town Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day
6 NVCC Coffee 10:30 am, Service 11:00 am ZOOM WMBC Services 9:00 and 10:30 am	7 Town Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day	8 Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm Library Board of Trustees NPCL 6:00 pm	9 Water District Meeting 6:30 pm	10	11	12
13 NVCC Coffee 10:30 am, Service 11:00 am ZOOM WMBC Services 9:00 and 10:30 am	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 NVCC Coffee 10:30 am, Service 11:00 am ZOOM WMBC Services 9:00 and 10:30 am Deadline for New Portlander Submissions 4:00 pm	21 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	22 Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	23	24	25	26
27 NVCC Coffee 10:30 am, Service 11:00 am ZOOM WMBC Services 9:00 and 10:30 am	28	29	30 Tax Bills are due			