



# NEW PORTLANDER

INFORMATION IS THE CURRENCY OF DEMOCRACY — THOMAS JEFFERSON

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DOUG KERR PHOTO

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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

## Notice

Starting September 15 through November 15 the Katie Crotch Road will be closed. The State of Maine Department of Transportation will be doing necessary work to the Parson's Bridge on that road.

*Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager*

## Selectmen

### Minutes for the Selectmen's Meeting September 17, 2020

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

1. Call the meeting to order: Andrea called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. Review minutes from previous meeting: Wayne motioned to accept the minutes as written, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.
3. Old Business: Public Sand Building - The board discussed again the public sand building; they are still trying to coordinate volunteers to complete this project.
4. Items by the Public: There was none.
5. Department Heads: Judi Wills discussed with the board that the recreation committee purchased and presented a plaque to Dallas Landry for his dedicated services being the editor of the monthly *New Portlander*.
6. Items by the Town Manager:
  - a. The board reviewed and signed payroll and accounts payable warrants.
  - b. There was no Treasurer's Report as Stacie was waiting for some changes to statements from the bank.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen: There was none.

Adjourn the meeting: 6:42 pm

*These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the October 1st meeting. smr*

*Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager*

## 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

## 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*

## RSU 74 / School Board

The September school board meeting was held at CHS. The whoopie pies and creme puffs were tremendous.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjustments to the Agenda: There were none.

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

Presentation: Laurie Hanson-Hiscock updated the board on the training and protocols regarding COVID 19.

Superintendent Report: Mr. Tracy opened his remarks by telling the board he was proud of the work the staff has done, and that the staff has been "wonderful". All the health and safety training has been done, and needed supplies have been delivered. 1.) The district has seen a significant loss of enrollment from 623 to 555. One reason is attributed to an increase in the number of students who are home-schooling. There are also some families that have been impossible to reach, despite repeated attempts to

contact. 2.) There will be a special board meeting on September 16. Four teachers will present and instruct the board on the usage of Seesaw and Google Classroom. 3.) Mr. Tracy discussed the standard procedure for dealing with a positive COVID case. When there is a confirmed positive, that information is reported to the superintendent, building administrator, and nurse. The state nurse liaison, the district's link to the CDC, is alerted. The district is given a CDC investigator. The school nurse is the primary contact with affected families. Those families will be contacted by both the nurse and the CDC, who will attempt to determine who was in close contact with the confirmed case. 4.) The CDC is responsible for contact tracing. A close contact is defined as being someone who was within six feet of the confirmed case for 15 minutes. Close contacts will be quarantined for 14 days and may not return to school/work for the duration of that time, even if they have tested negative for the virus. If there are future COVID 19 positive cases (per the CDC standard operating procedure): If one or two students test positive, the plan would be to quarantine all close contacts for 14 days. This would presumably include a classroom/cohort. If three or more students test positive, a whole school or potentially the whole district would move immediately to remote learning for at least 28 days. In the current situation, there have been four negative tests reported from people defined as close contacts. (A board member expressed concern that the first call to individuals considered to be close contacts came from a staff member other than the nurse. She requested that in the future the first call come from someone with medical expertise. Another board member expressed concern about there being two robocalls. The first said that school would continue as planned and also said there was not contact with staff members. The board member found this to be misleading. Mr. Tracy explained that there was no attempt to mislead, and that as more information came to light that prompted the need for the second phone call.) In the current situation, there have been four negative tests reported from people defined as close contacts.

Appointments: Tammy Long - Dual Enrollment Coordinator, Candy Lebeau - Bus Radio Monitor, Bonnie White -Bus Radio Monitor

Resignations: none

Nominations: none

Committees: The Buildings/Grounds Committee met prior to the board meeting. Lorie Agren provided the committee with a list of the work which had been completed during summer and also of the work that still remains to be done.

**NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is October 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](mailto: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.

## Admin Reports:

Tim Richards (CHS) said his staff is ready for the students to arrive. The fate of fall sports is still to be determined. Coaches can currently meet with students and focus on conditioning. There are no schedules in place for games/competition, as the MPA and state officials are still attempting to create a plan. Keith Mahoney (CCS) said that his staff has been working hard at preparing for remote learning. The fate of middle school sports will be influenced by the final decision on high school sports. Jean Butler's (Solon and Garret Schenck) staff has been training to use Google Classroom and Seesaw, and they are ready to begin when students arrive. Grace Gram (Sp Ed) told the board that about one-third of IEP students have opted for remote learning. Her staff has been working to provide services, and is ready to go. Lorie Agren (maintenance) praised the work that her staff has done to get the buildings ready for the arrival of students. Scott Hall (technology) is confident that by the end of September there will be enough laptops for all k-12 students. 300 of the 600 computers that have been ordered are currently en route, and will be here by next week. All remote learners have laptops now. Promethean boards have been ordered for all teachers. The district is looking to add a tech position from 12:00 pm – 7:00 pm for the purpose of helping to troubleshoot any problems that remote learners may encounter. Brian Twitchell commended the staff for the work they have done during the scheduled (and more unexpected) workshop days.

Public Participation: 1.) A citizen asked what would happen if COVID was present in the community and presented a scenario where a local business had a dozen cases, but no students or staff had tested positive. Would the schools shut down? Mr. Tracy said the district would follow the advice of the CDC in such a situation. 2.) Board member Heather Bell read a letter from a citizen. The letter writer expressed the belief that the start of school should not have been moved to September 8. The letter also encouraged the district to have an effective plan for dealing with the virus, and the letter called for the hiring of an additional nurse position.

To see if the board will approve the 5% allowable transfer of cost centers overspent per auditor recommendations. Regular Instruction \$1,337 and System Administration \$18,481. This was approved.

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 7:49 pm.

*Submitted: Dave Ela, Carrabec Association President*

## Notice

Dogs can start to be licensed on Thursday, October 15.

*Submitted: Kristen Mitchell, Town Clerk*

# HAPPY HALLOWEEN



# New Portland Churches

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The Western Mountains Baptist Church congregation was blessed to learn that Pastor Tom DuBois and wife, Betsy, recently received the distinguished Aubrey and Peggy Jones award. Recipients of the award are nominated by their peers for the great work they do in their church and community. Pastors and their spouses attend from all over New England for a weekend long encouragement retreat; one award is presented each year. Please help us in congratulating Pastor Tom and Betsy for being an example to others for "getting it right" here in New Portland and beyond.

At the time of this writing, yesterday, there was a well-attended "wood party" held at the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem. Twenty-six people joined together to take care of 12+ cords of wood at the ministry. The wood will help heat the building itself and some will be given to folks who need help with firewood during the winter. Two hours got it done! If you know of anyone needing help keeping warm this winter, please call WMBC to ask what kind of help may be available.

A Ladies Sewing Class begins October 10 on Tuesdays from 9:00 am - noon. Kathy McClure of Kingfield will be available to help women at various levels of knowledge in their sewing skills. If someone wants help to learn their sewing machine or to complete a sewing project or wants to learn how to get started, she can be helpful. Bring your machine (or needle and thread) and your project (or ideas) and meet together with some new (or old) friends. FMI call Kathy at 265-6435.

WMBC continues to hold services at 10:00 am every Sunday. Children's church and the nursery are available during the service. Face coverings, social distancing and hand hygiene are encouraged. Pre-recorded videos of the message can be viewed on the Western Mountains Baptist Church YouTube channel or go to [westernmountainschurch.org](http://westernmountainschurch.org) to find the most current link. While on the website, check out the calendar of events, newsletters, and ministries or send a prayer request. Pastor Tom is available by email [pastorwmabc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwmabc@gmail.com) or leave a message at the church for a return call, 265-2557.

*Submitted: Crystal Fitch*

New Portland Community Church News October 2020: In lieu of recent news of the ease with which coronavirus spreads, New Portland Church session has voted again to forego another month of in-person services.

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 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 Genesis 15 from Rev. Rothea Kornelius:

## Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

2 But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

3 And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir."

4 But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir."

5 He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

6 And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

## DEVOTION

The narrative lectionary this week takes us to another promise of God - a promise to Abram that his descendants would be as many as the stars in the sky.

Abram had difficulty believing this promise that God made to him. In fact, so did Sarah - we know this from the unraveled series, where she had a good little, behind-the-tent-door, giggle about the smack the visitors talked with Abram about pregnancies at the age of 90. Abram challenged God in this passage also - how could God keep this promise if Abram was still childless and the only one he could even leave an inheritance to, was not his blood?

God tries to reassure Abram that God will make good on that promise by showing Abram the stars in the skies, but that still doesn't put a child in Sarai's belly. In fact, Abram and Sarai goes behind God's back to get that child, through Hagar (Sarai's servant) - trying to do it themselves when they get tired of waiting on God, and find it harder and harder to believe, as the years tick by.

But God still keeps God's promises, despite Abram and Sarai's lack of trust in that promise. God remains faithful to the promise of descendants for Abraham and Sarah, as many as the stars in the skies or the sand on the beach. God does not withhold because they fail to keep the faith. God carries out this promise in God's own time and in God's own way.

How hard do we find it to trust in God's promises for our own lives? How hard do we find it to believe that the same promises in the ancient Book is true for us, as well? That God wants the best for us? That God adores us and delight in us? That God will take care of our daily needs? We beg for grand gestures and dictate how God should carry out our hearts' desires and plans for our lives, and when it doesn't happen in that specific way, we think that God abandoned us.

Thing is, God rarely does things the way we hope or expect, but God always have our best interest at heart, and is far more creative, and full of surprises, than we care to admit. We might hope to find a cozy and comfortable way to retire, and our children, now grown, need support and assistance again, unraveling our travel plans. We wonder why God won't let us



**Dog License Reminder**  
**New Portland Town Clerk's Office**

Dear Dog Owner,

It's that time again! Dog licenses can start to be issued on Thursday, October 15, 2020. Please come to the Town Clerk's Office to license your dog(s) at your earliest convenience. **Be sure to come in before January 31, 2021 to avoid paying the late fee of \$25.00 per dog.** Any dog that remains unregistered will be summonsed to court by the Animal Control Officer.... So please do not delay! **These fines and deadlines are required by state law and cannot be waived.**

Remember if your dog(s) is here for more than seven (7) days then you need to license your dog(s). If your dog(s) is six (6) months or more in age then your dog(s) need to be licensed. In addition, if you no longer have your dog please call me at 628-4441 as soon as possible so that we may update our information.

To relicense your dog, you can come to the New Portland Town Office. Our regular office hours are Monday – Wednesday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, Thursday 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm. You may also re-license your dog through the mail. Please send a copy of the dog(s) Maine rabies certificate and a check payable to the "Town of New Portland" for the appropriate fee, and I will process the license and return the paperwork and the new dog tag(s) to you. **Please use the form provided at the bottom of this notice if you are mailing your information in.**

Thank you for your attention to this important notice. Dog licensing ensures rabies vaccination, which protects the health of your pet and your family.

**Remember, all dogs in the State of Maine are required to be licensed.**

The licensing fee is \$6.00 for neutered or spayed dogs and \$11.00 for male or female dogs **if licensed BEFORE January 31, 2021.** The fees will be \$31.00 for neutered or spayed dogs and \$36.00 for unaltered dogs **if licensed after January 31, 2021.** Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your copy of the Maine rabies certificate and payment to:

Town of New Portland  
901 River Road  
New Portland, ME 04961

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Please clip this section and return with your check made payable to the Town of New Portland

Name of Dog Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Dog(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** 207-628-4441 ■ **FAX :**207-628-4440 ■ **website:** [www.newportlandmaine.com](http://www.newportlandmaine.com)  
901 River Rd. New Portland, Maine 04961

# **HAPPY DOG**



**Please Don't Forget  
to License Your Dog!**

**THANK YOU**

rest. We would love to have those grandchildren close by to spoil and to enjoy, and a better job for our children let them move farther away and we wonder if God is punishing us. We had all our plans laid out this year, and a pandemic struck, everything came to a halt, and we feel that our lives are falling apart around us, loneliness creeping in, and we don't know what to do with ourselves.

All of this can be so frustrating... all of this can cause despair and anxiety and wondering where this God that wants good for us dropped the balls. But just because our plans didn't work out the way we think they should, does not mean that God is not behind it, or even better, in front of it. Just because we couldn't do it the way we thought best, doesn't mean that God is not involved or that God has failed us.

God may be waiting for just the right moment to surprise us with so much more than we could have dreamed or felt that we wanted. The time now spent with our children who need support might be the beginning of newly nurtured relationships that we feel we missed during their childhood. The grandchildren in a different state allows us to travel and explore new and wonderful places that we might otherwise not have seen. The pandemic gave us a moment to slow down and sit with God again, finding new hobbies and interests, and what matters in life the most.

God's plans are not always ours, and ours are mostly different from God's surprises and delights. But God's promises are as numerous as the stars and fulfilled in surprising ways. They will never fail to bring us joy, as long as we can wait and believe that that is exactly what God wants for us.

### Prayer for the Week

O Lord, in the silence of this day which is now beginning,  
I come to ask you for peace, wisdom, and strength.

Today I want to look upon the world with eyes full of love;  
to be patient, understanding, humble, calm, and good.

Today I want to see beyond the appearances of your children,

to see them as you yourself see them and so to be able  
to appreciate the goodness of each person.

Close my ears to all murmuring; guard my tongue from all evil

speech, so that only those thoughts that bless may remain  
in me.

Today I want to be so well-intentioned and just that all those  
who approach me may feel your presence.

Clothe me with your goodness, O Lord, and grant that,  
during this day I may reflect you.

Amen.

*Morning Prayer* by Fr. Ignacio Larrañaga, S.J.

*Translated from the Spanish by Fr. Mark Stengel, O.S.B*

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*

## New Portland Community Library

Hello All,

Just a quick note this month to let you know we have moved the public computers around allowing for more than six foot distancing. Over seventy new titles have been added to our circulation; we hope you come check it out!

If you have some time on your hands and would like to volunteer a few hours to the library, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Sheila, the contact information is listed below.

The September Library Club winners were Alan & Kay Michka and Gary Cobb, both parties donated the their winnings back to the library. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Contact Information: 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), we also have a Facebook page!

*Submitted by: Becky Knowles-Redlevske*



