



NEW PORTLANDER

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DOUG KERR PHOTO

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Visit the Town of New Portland's web page at 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

Town Clerk: Stacie Rundlett (acting)

Email nwprtInd@tds.net

LPI: Leo Mayo - 566-7341

Assessor's Agent: Audra Swanson

Wednesday 10am - 3pm
Email newportlandassessor@gmail.com

Fire Department: Chief Kip Poulin

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

Notice

The Town Office will be closed on the following dates in December:

Thursday, December 24

in observance of Christmas

Thursday, December 31

to close the town books for year ending 2020.

Town Manager

Any budget requests for 2021 should be turned by December 1, 2020.

Nomination papers are available for the following: Town Clerk - three (3) year term, Board of Selectman - three (3) year term, School Board Member - three (3) year term. Anyone wishing to run for these positions will need to obtain nomination paper from the Town Clerk's office and will need to get at least 25 and no more than 100 signatures of New Portland residents who are authorized to vote in town affairs. They will need to return those nomination papers back to the clerk's office by no later than January 24, 2021.

Dog licenses have started for the 2021 year as of Tuesday, October 15. Please come into license your dog(s) or use the form that was included in the October issue of the New Portlander. For a neutered or spayed dog(s) the fee is \$6.00. For non neutered or sprayed dog(s) it is \$11.00. If you have any questions, you can contact me at (207)628-4441 or by email at newportlandtownclerk@gmail.com.

We will be having the Annual Giving Tree at the Town Office again. We will be taking gifts until Thursday, December 17. Anyone wishing to contribute please stop by and get a gift tag off the tree, which will have an item listed on it for you to purchase and bring back for us to wrap. We also accept monetary donations to purchase any items that were not donated. If you are someone who needs some extra help with gifts for your kid(s) this year, please contact Stacie for an application as soon as possible. The fire department will assist us again this year with delivering gifts before Christmas Day. We will ensure that we are following all

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

CDC safety recommendations when doing all of this. Please contact Stacie at the town office, 628-4441 or email newportlandtownmanager@gmail.com. If you have any questions or concerns. Unfortunately, we cannot accept any used donations due to the covid virus. We look forward to making this year's Giving Tree another success and hope that you all have a wonderful and safe holiday season.

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

Selectmen

Minutes for the Selectmen's Meeting of October 19, 2020

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

1. Call the meeting to order:- Andrea called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 Department Heads: There was none.
5. Items by the Public: Garrett Oswald discussed with the board his concerns that what was reflected in the written minutes from September meetings which went in the newsletter are not what actually happened at the meetings. The board members expressed to Garrett that sometimes what is put in the newsletter is changed by accident as it sometimes goes through two or more people before it is put in print. Garrett pointed out dates that he was present at meetings and what took place compared to what was in the newsletter.
6. Items by the Town Manager:
 - a. The Board reviewed and signed the payroll, A/P warrants and the September Treasurer's Report.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen:
 - a. The Board reviewed three abatement requests. Raymond motioned in favor of each of them as written and Andrea seconded, all were in favor. 1. Elizabeth Collins – 563.50, 2. Tom and Nowetah Cyr – 100.14, 3. Maine Timber Mats, LLC – 14,389.94 (previously motioned, 2nd and approved)Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the November 10 meeting. smr

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett

RSU 74 / School Board

The November board meeting was held at Carrabec Community School. The meeting started at 7:00 pm, rather than the normal time of 6:00 pm because the board members had a board member training at 6:00 pm.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the pledge, Mr. Tracy introduced Jack Kaplan. Mr. Kaplan and the members of Will Power attended so they could recognize board member Judi Dunphy. Mr. Kaplan told the board that Judi has been honored as the winner of the Maine Association of Health & Physical Education Recreation & Dance 2020 Layperson Award. Mr. Kaplan read aloud the letter he wrote nominating Judi for the award.

Adjustments to the Agenda: There were none.

Minutes: After some discussion, the minutes of the October board meeting were approved.

Presentation: There was no presentation this month.

Superintendent Report: The October 1 enrollment report showed RSU 74 with 561 students. Mr. Tracy was asked to assess the district's readiness should the district need to go fully remote at some point in the future. While he does not believe the district is entirely where we want to be, he feels the district is getting closer all the time. Or, while the district may not be 100% ready, it is 100% more prepared than it was eight months ago. He and the admin team are continuously reviewing the situation and looking for ways to improve. While synchronous learning is not the expectation now, it has not been ruled out for the future. A five week trial has begun, which includes staff from each building. The teachers involved with this will teach one class synchronously with in-person and remote learners. Mr. Tracy mentioned "Phase Three" and reiterated that he would like to bring in "more kids, more of the time". He did not seem confident that all of the 6-12 students would be able to attend school at the same time anytime soon. Among the ideas that have been suggested... (And to be clear, my use of "suggested" is not intended to imply that any of these have been decided upon.) grades 6-8 could return in a similar fashion to k-5, 6-8 could return in a similar fashion to 6-8, synchronous learning, Phase Three to begin following the semester break, not the Christmas break, sixth grade students from GS or Solon could return to their elementary schools. Mr. Tracy said he hopes that anyone with suggestions will share those suggestions with him and/or their supervisor. Board members offered many comments. No decisions were made.

Appointments: Patrick Daubenberger - volunteer assistant girls' basketball coach, CHS

Kristie Leblanc - volunteer Will Power coach

Committees: 1.) The board's Academic Committee recently met. They discussed the remote learning plan and the math curriculum. It appears the MEAs will not occur in March. Mr. Tracy expressed caution when asked about comparing 2020-21

NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is December 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.

NWEA scores with the scores of previous years. While the data may prove to be meaningful, it may be difficult to compare it with the numbers from past years. 2.) The Policy Committee met also. At the October board meeting, one of the policies that was up for approval generated a lot of discussion. The committee examined the policy and sent it to Drummond-Woodsum (the district's lawyers) for review and comment. After reviewing the policies, the lawyers did not make any major changes.

Admin Reports: Tim Richards said that the MPA was optimistic there would be a high school basketball season, but it would not start in November like usual. Keith Mahoney directed the board members' attention to the recently released CCS newsletter. Jean Butler announced that RSU 74 has been approved to receive a third COVID grant for \$590,000. At the November Drive Thru Food Give Away event, 55 boxes of food were given to local families. Jean thanked Beth Higgins and Alicia Bedard for their efforts. Scott Hall said the number one priority of the Tech Helpdesk is to assist remote learners who may have technology issues. 100 hot spots have been given out to remote learners. In the event that instruction reverts to fully remote, he hopes to give out some hot spots to in-person learners who may have unreliable internet. K-3 students will soon have laptops for in-person and at home use. Brian Twitchell has held numerous meetings with staff as the staff seeks to become more adept at utilizing new technology. Grace Cram had nothing to add to her report. Lorie Agren and her staff are doing their best to stay caught up with all the work that needs to be done.

Public Participation: No one spoke.

Policies: After review by the policy committee and the lawyers the policies that were tabled last month were approved 12-1. The policy that generated so much attention last month was altered somewhat. One spelling error and three typographical errors were fixed. Drummond-Woodsum charged \$619 to re-examine the policy.

Certification Handbook: There was much discussion of the updated Certification Handbook. The updates were approved by a vote of 10-1. One board member abstained.

Resolution to Authorize Lease Purchase: After the very lengthy lease-purchase agreement was read aloud, the board approved the \$231,450 lease agreement. Elementary laptops will be purchased with the funds.

This portion of the meeting ended at 8:58 pm.

Executive Session for Superintendent Evaluation:

When the executive session began, I went home.

Adjournment: This was the final agenda item other than to adjourn. Sometime after 9:00 pm, the meeting must have ended.

✓ Special Board Meeting was held on November 18 and was a two hour affair which featured much discussion. Rather than trying to recap two hours of talk, I will try to limit this to action items and concrete info.

The meeting kicked off with the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was discussion as to whether the meeting was being recorded and/or streamed.

A board member expressed concern not all board members were wearing masks.

Mr. Tracy delivered some remarks. He said that in spite of the challenges, and there are many, the district is doing well. Good things are happening.

Current enrollment is 561. Roughly 25% of the students are remote learners. Going forward the 561 figure, a continuing decrease in students, will have budget implications, as we will lose subsidy money.

Over the past few years, the student class-failure rate has been around 12%. This year, in person learners are failing at a rate higher than that, and remote learners have a failure rate that is much, much higher than that.

In regards to why the remote learner failure rate was so high, several possibilities were cited. Teachers continue to have high standards, and teachers continue to hold students accountable. The primary reason for failure seems to be not that the students are doing poorly on homework or tests. Instead, many remote learners are not doing any work and receive zeroes.

There seems to be a connection between parents who are engaged with the remote learning process and communicate with the school and whether or not their children are succeeding in the remote setting.

Many of the remote learners who are struggling this year have struggled as in person learners in the past.

Plans are in place to help the learners (both in person and remote) who are failing. In k-8, remote learners who are struggling will be invited to come in to school on Mondays. In person learners who only come in to school twice a week (or perhaps three times at CHS) will be expected to come in on their "off days" to catch up on missing work.

There was discussion among board members about possibly hiring more staff, specifically to deal with remote learners.

Some board members believe that students should be "locked in" as either in person learners or remote learners.

A synchronous pilot is in place. Mr. Tracy would not rule in or rule out the possibility of synchronous learning being an expectation in the future.

No decision has been made regarding Phase Three.

Mr. Tracy has been in communication with all stakeholders regarding the road ahead. He held a community Zoom on October 28. A staff Zoom will be held on November 19. He has visited the schools and solicited opinions from staff members.

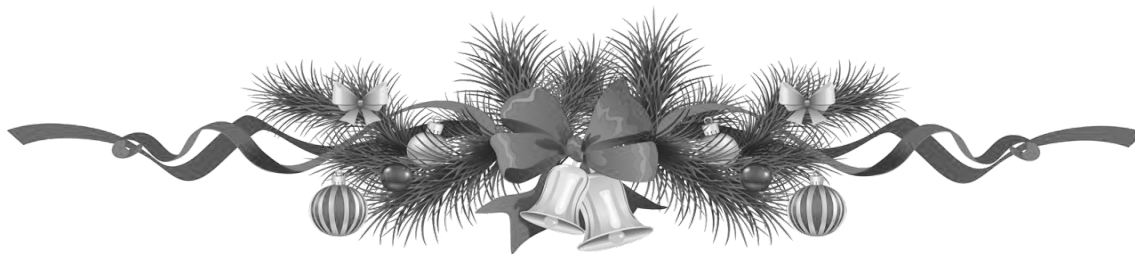
Mr. Tracy said in the event that the county or state turned red, he would end in person learning, and immediately switch to remote.

Board members seemed to believe such a move should be their decision, not the decision of the superintendent. Therefore the board voted on whether to go remote if we turn red. The vote was 10-4 in favor of switching to remote in the event we turn red.

There are three staff members in quarantine because they are "close contacts". More than a dozen students are in quarantine because they are close contacts. (I apparently neglected to write down the exact number. Sorry.)

The next board meeting will be December 2.

Submitted: Dave Ela, Carrabec Association President



New Portland Giving Tree Application 2020

Name of Applicant: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Street Address: _____

Gift ideas are suggestions only. We do not guarantee to provide specific gifts, but we try to fulfill each request

Child's Name: _____

Age: _____ Male/Female

Boot Size: _____ Clothing Size: _____

Interests: _____

Needs: _____

Child's Name: _____

Age: _____ Male/Female

Boot Size: _____ Clothing Size: _____

Interests: _____

Needs: _____

Child's Name: _____

Age: _____ Male/Female

Boot Size: _____ Clothing Size: _____

Interests: _____

Needs: _____

Child's Name: _____

Age: _____ Male/Female

Boot Size: _____ Clothing Size: _____

Interests: _____

Needs: _____

New Portland Churches

The Western Mountains Baptist Church continues to meet every Sunday at 10:00 am at 928 Carrabassett Road (Rt. 27). With the state's gathering guidelines recently being re-adjusted back to a maximum of 50 people in one meeting, we are being extra cautious about using face coverings and social distancing. Our sanctuary is large enough to do this easily. Pre-recorded messages of the Sunday morning message continue to be available on YouTube. A direct link can be found on our website: westernmountianschurch.org or on our facebook page.

The WMBC goal to raise \$1200 in donations for Thanksgiving turkeys for the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem was met. Due to generous donors 100 families will be provided a turkey with all the fixings. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a success.

At the time of this writing, a Christmas program has not been planned. In order to stay up to date of any changes please refer once again to the calendar of events on our website, check out our facebook page or check the road-side sign for details. Calls are also welcomed at the church, 265-2557 or to Pastor Tom, 557-3802.

Bridging the Gap provides homemade hot meals to the elderly and homebound in New Portland, Kingfield and Salem Township. On Saturday, December 19 dedicated volunteers will deliver a delicious meal to recipients' homes. If you or someone you know would like an early Christmas dinner, please call Cathy at 678-2442 to sign up. Bridge the Gap provides meals every month.

If you are struggling during these challenging times and would like to have your situation prayed about, please send an email to: westernmountainbaptist@tds.net

May you find hope and joy during this Christ-mas season.

Submitted: Crystal Fitch

New Portland Community Church news for December 2020: December is here, and we are grappling with a surge in Covid cases not only in the state but around the country. In light of this we will not be holding in-person services at the New Portland Community Church through the Christmas and New Year's season. Advent starts on Sunday, November 29. There will be special readings on all four Sundays before Christmas to honor the Advent season. All services will be held on Zoom (see the links below). The Christmas Eve service will also be on Zoom at 7:00 pm on December 24. We hope everyone is keeping well and wish everyone the best for the holiday season. In this season of love for family, friends and community we know that while we cannot necessarily hold them close we are keeping them safely in our hearts.

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.

If you would like to receive 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. Respectfully...

Submitted: Nan Berry





The New Portlander

Established July 1994

901 River Road
New Portland, Maine 04961

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 NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR DECEMBER 2020 DOUG KEHR PHOTO						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am ZOOM WMBC Services 10:00 am		1 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	2 School Board Meeting 6:30 pm at CCS Planning Board Meeting 6:30 pm	3 Recreation Committee Community Room 6:30 pm	4	5 Town Office Closed
6 NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am ZOOM WMBC Services 10:00 am	7 Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm Library Board of Trustees NPCL 6:00 pm	8 Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm Water District Meeting 6:30 pm	9	10	11 Hanukkah	12
13 NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am ZOOM WMBC Services 10:00 am	14	15	16	17	18 Deadline for New Portlander Submissions 4:00 pm	19
20 NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am ZOOM WMBC Services 10:00 am Submissions 4:00 pm Deadline for New Portlander	21 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	22 Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	23	24 Town Office Closed Christmas Observance	25 Town Office Closed Christmas Observance	26 Kwanzaa
27 NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am ZOOM WMBC Services 10:00 am	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve Town Office Closed		