



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

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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: Stacie Rundlett

Email newportlandtownmanager@gmail.com

Deputy Town Manager/Deputy Town Clerk: Mallory Stratton

Email newportlandclerk@gmail.com

Office hours: Same as the Town office hours

Town Clerk: Jianna Pinkham

Email newportlandclerk@gmail.com

Office hours: Thursday noon to 5:00 pm or by appointment

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

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 Saturday of the month 9am

• 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

Tuesday & Saturday 8:30am - Noon

Thursday 1pm - 3pm

• Kingfield-New Portland Transfer Station

Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday 7:30am - 4:30pm

• New Portland Post Office Customer Service Hours

Monday - Friday 7am - 9am, 2pm - 4pm

Saturday 7am - 10:30am

From the Editor

July is always an interesting month for me as it marks a new Volume Number for the *New Portlander*. As the editor of this newsletter, I am pleased to note the newsletter is entering its twenty-eighth year this month. When I ventured into doing this project, I had no idea it would survive this long. I had no idea I would be editing for such a long period of time. This note is not about me. It is at this point we, the community, the citizens and the Town of New Portland, should take a moment and reflect on what this monthly communication has brought to New Portlanders. It would not exist without the community and their need to be informed. Once a month, on or about the tenth of each month, I send out a reminder of the deadline to my usual submissions. If you would like to be added to this reminder mailing please send me an email address at which I can send the monthly reminder and you will be added to that emailing.

Submitted: Dallas Landry

Town Manager

The Town Office will be closed for the following dates in observance of Independence Day; Saturday, July 3 and Monday, July 5. We will reopen Tuesday, July 6 at our normal business hours. The selectmen's meeting for July 6 is canceled. Happy 4th of July!

I would like to thank each and every person who donated to the Franklin County Animal Shelter. We had a great turn out, and it just shows me even more how generous our community is. Thank you to ALL.

For the month of July on Thursdays, I will be hosting bake sales at the Town Office. All proceeds will be donated to the New Portland Community Library. On Thursday mornings I will be posting on the town's Facebook page what goodies will be available that day. Examples of some of the goodies that will be available are as follows: whoopie pies, chocolate chip cookies, peanut butter cookies, brownies, cupcakes (different assortments), peanut butter fudge, donuts, cinnamon rolls, muffins. Remember, please check out our Facebook page Thursday mornings to see which items I will have available on that day.

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

Selectmen

Minutes for Selectmen's Meeting May 17, 2021

Roster: Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Tina Poulin, Wayne Rundlett; Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett, Garrett Oswald, Marilyn Gorman, Brian Rundlett

1. Raymond called the meeting to order at 6:29 pm.
 2. The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Wayne motioned to accept the minutes as written, Raymond seconded.
 3. Old Business: There was a brief discussion about the Sand Salt Shed door and that the electrician had still not shown up to wire the high voltage for it.
 4. Items by the Public: NONE
 5. Department Heads: NONE
 6. Items by the Town Manager:
 - a. The Board reviewed and signed payroll, A/P warrants.
 - b. Stacie discussed with the Board that Mike Malesky has shown interest in taking over the responsibilities of the West New Portland Cemetery, as well as Matt and Cathy Sleeper (who have done all of the maintenance for the cemetery over the past ten years). The Board decided to have both parties come to the next scheduled Selectmen's Meeting to discuss the matter further. Stacie would contact all of them and invite them to the June 1 meeting.
 7. Items by the Board of Selectmen:
 - a. Employee evaluations (tabled until next meeting).
 - b. Raymond Poulin spoke with Brent Davenport regarding how much sand was left in the Sand Salt Shed building. The thought was that possibly we would only need to put up 2500 yards of sand instead of 3700. Stacie inquired if we should have Gary Agren, New Portland's Road Commissioner look at the pile to get his input on how much sand was left. Wayne and Raymond thought that was a good idea. Tina stated that she could look at the pile and tell how much was left. It was discussed on where to put the ad for the Winter Sand Bids. Tina would look at the pile after the meeting, and then Stacie would put the ad in the *Daily Bulldog*, *The Irregular*, *The New Portlander*, and the Town's website.
- Tina discussed she received a phone call from someone regarding some things that were taking place at the Town Office. The complaint was that there was music playing with the "F" word in the music and that children were there. She did not state who the complaint was from, but the person asked her if that was appropriate to be taking place

at the office. She stated that the office should be run as a business. Stacie stated that she was not sure about the music issue, but there were children at the office from time to time, and that over the past 20 + years children were at the office. Tina found it hard to believe this would be the first time a complaint had come in regarding things like this taking place at the office. Raymond stated in the past there was only one complaint regarding a child at the office who had special needs, which was addressed at the time. Tina stated that if there were more complaints in the future the issue would need to be addressed. Stacie agreed that the office should be run as a business and reiterated that it is run as a business. Stacie acknowledged addressing the issue in the future if more complaints came in.

Raymond reminded Tina she also had received a complaint from Gilbert Taylor, and she then discussed that Gilbert had questioned why only the triangle (three roads) near his property in the North Village were posted, and all other roads the posted road signs were removed, and he questioned why this was. Stacie discussed with the Board there had been a few calls similar which came into the office, as they typically do this time of year. She reiterated to the Board that in those situations she gives the caller or person who has questioned posted roads Gary's number so they can discuss the matter further with him since he is the Road Commissioner and in charge of posted roads. Raymond reminded all that Gary was at the last meeting, and Gary stated directly to the Board that some of the posted road signs would not come down until May 15 due to the conditions on those roads, which is allowed by Maine State Law.

Adjourn the meeting at 6:43 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the June 1 meeting. smr

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett

Lexington/Highland Historical Society

A spaghetti supper benefitting the Lexington Highland Historical Society will be served at the Happy Horseshoe Camp Ground on July 2 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm.

Submitted Barbara Pinkham

NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is July 20 by 4:00 pm.

Any articles, submissions, information for publication should be received by:

Dallas Landry • PO Box 34, North New Portland, ME 04961 • phone 628-4201 • email: alderswamp2@gmail.com

If there are any questions or needs regarding the receiving of the *New Portlander*, those inquiries should be directed to the Town Manager.



RSU 74 / School Board

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

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

After the Pledge, Board Chairman Troy Dunphy spoke on behalf of the full board. He congratulated the graduating seniors on their accomplishments.

Adjustments to the Agenda: An agenda item was added. The new agenda item was for the purpose of discussing the World Language program/curriculum.

Minutes: The minutes of the May school board meeting were approved.

Presentation: There was no presentation.

Superintendent Report: Mr. Tracy praised the work of the teachers, support staff, and admin team. He commended the work they have done to get through an unusual school year.

Students from 46 different families switched from public school to home school in 2020-21. Mr. Tracy sent those families a letter informing them of his belief that school will be every day/all day in 2021-22. He is hoping that many of those families will opt to return their children to public education. He again expressed his belief that "Plan A" will be in effect in September, that is all kids, all the time, and no remote option. Under new guidelines, if pool testing is utilized, distancing is not needed.

The last student day will be June 9.

Mr. Tracy expressed his appreciation for the many years of service that Chris Gram and Roxann Waugh provided.

He closed with the COVID update. As of Wednesday night, there were two close contact students at CCS and

one at Solon. One GS student had tested positive, and 30+ students and three staff members were close contacts.

Appointments: Brian Twitchell - Teacher Certification Chair, Mary Keenan - Ed Tech Certification Chair, Tanya Carey - Chief Mentor and New Teacher Mentor at GS, Stacey Robinson - New Teacher Mentor at CHS, Michelle Stevens - New Teacher Mentor at Solon, Lesa Weggler - New Teacher Mentor at CCS, Jasmyn Wagg - STEAM Lead Teacher at GS, Stacey McCluskey - STEAM Lead Teacher at Solon, Richard Reichenbach - STEAM Lead Teacher at Solon, Jen Lachance - Lead Teacher, Solon, Dorrie Robinson - Lead Teacher at GS, Mike Golden - Lead Teacher at CCS, Heidi Day - CCS girls' soccer, Hollye Dunphy - CCS boys' soccer, Stacey Brown - Summer Cook Manager

Summer School Appointments: John Tierney, Jessica Sales, Priscilla Ellis, Mike Golden, Teri Hoops, Jennifer Hebert, Desireah Ladd, Alicia Golden, Aaron Welch, Brenda Mullin, Mary Keenan, Elizabeth Phillips, Jessie Cates, Elaine Jillson, Bruce Dostie, Keith Holland, Stacey Robinson, Aaron Baum

Resignation: Chris Gram, CHS French/German

Nominations: Rachel Layman - Solon First Grade, Paul Kaplan - k-8 PE, Billie Lawrence - Learning Interventionist Teacher at GS, Amanda Deleonardis - Learning Interventionist Teacher at Solon. These four individuals were approved without debate or opposition. Erik Carey was approved as 6-12 Athletic Director. The vote in favor was 11-1 with board member Ellen McQuistion the no-vote.

Admin Reports: Most of the administrators chose not to add to the reports which they had submitted to the board prior to the meeting.

Keith Mahoney thanked the CCS 5th grade and Mr.

Golden. Mr. Golden's students provided the plants that were at the board's tables. Mr. Mahoney also thanked Candy Lebeau for providing fruit and water for the meeting.

Lorie Agren reported her staff is getting ready for CHS graduation and the 8th grade promotion schedule. She said that Portland Glass gave an estimate that the cost to replace the CHS doors and windows would be \$575,000. A motion was made to solicit competitive bids for the CHS doors/windows and the CCS roof. The board voted to approve.

Committees: None met recently.

Citizens: None spoke.

School Bus Bid: The board voted to purchase a new bus from O'Connor.

Teacher Evaluation Handbook:

The teacher evaluation handbook has been revised for 2021-2022. There was some discussion of this item. The board voted to approve the handbook. The vote in favor was 11-1 with board member Ellen McQuiston the no-vote.

Discussion of Future Board Meetings: It appears that the location (CCS) and the format (in person and through Google Meet) will remain the same at least through July. However, assuming the Maine COVID situation continues to improve, the board will have to make some decisions. Will the meetings continue to be only at CCS or will they again include all schools? Will meetings continue to have a remote option, or will it be only in person?

ED 279:

There is a bill in the legislature to fund education at 55%. If the governor signs the bill into law, RSU 74 would receive \$199,000 more from the state. If this occurs, Mr. Tracy said he intends to return that money to the local taxpayers.

Discussion of Foreign Language Program: This item was added to the agenda, at the behest of board member Ellen McQuiston. Mrs. McQuiston had many ideas about the future of foreign language in RSU 74. She would like to see foreign language offered to middle school students. If hiring a foreign language teacher becomes a challenge, she hopes the district will consider sharing a position with another district or perhaps have our students learn remotely from a teacher who may not be at CHS.

The End: Before adjourning, Troy Dunphy recognized board members who will be leaving. The June meeting was the last regular board meeting for at least two board members. Bob Demchak and Ellen McQuiston will be leaving the board at the end of June, and Mr. Dunphy thanked them for their service.

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 7:59 pm.

July Board Meeting: The July board meeting is scheduled for July 7. On July 7, I will be in South Carolina visiting my mom. It is possible that I will seek out the Google Meet link, watch the board meeting, and then compose and send out a recap. It is also possible that while on vacation, the board meeting may slip my mind altogether.

Submitted: Dave Ela, Carrabec Association President

New Portland Community Library

July 9: Eating You Alive "People aren't living longer, they're dying longer."

A comprehensive look into why we are so sick, who is profiting and who is taking the "hit". It brings together evidence-based science and expert testimony about a whole food plant-based lifestyle.

RSVP please:

207/628-6561 or newportlandcl@gmail.com

Submitted: Beth Perera

New Portland Churches

New Portland Community Church News for July: Summer is ticking away quickly, it's hard to believe it's July already! Starting in June we returned to in-person worship. It has been wonderful to gather as a congregation, to hear the organ play, to sing our favorite hymns and to see people we haven't seen in quite a long time. It has been a challenging year for many, and it's great to see people happy and healthy, and getting out and about safely.

We are pleased to be meeting again in the North Village Church's beautiful sanctuary and welcome you to join us! We are still practicing social distancing and request that if you have not been vaccinated please do wear a mask indoors.

Journey of Faith, the Fairbanks/New Portland combined bible study, has returned to meeting in person. A small, yet fun, group of people have been meeting at 4:00 pm on Tuesday afternoons for lively conversation and discussion. We'd love to have you join us.

Online services are still available through Zoom and Facebook live at the links below. Please note that the online service will be held at 9:00 am instead of 10:00 am.

Here is the link for the weekly worship services held at 9:00 am on Sunday morning: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87009696278> The worship service is also, usually, streamed live on the Fairbanks Union Church Facebook page.

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 a text version of the Sunday sermon and other weekly reflections from Rev. Thea via US mail or email please call Nan Berry or Judi Batchelder at the numbers above to be added to the mailing list. Respectfully...

Submitted: Nan Berry





The New Portlander

Established July 1994

901 River Road
New Portland, Maine 04961

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NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR JULY 2021 DOUG KEHR PHOTO						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Recreation Committee Community Room 6:30 pm	2	3 Town Office Closed Observance of Independence Day
4 NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am ZOOM WMBC Services 10:00 am	5 Town Office Closed Observance of Independence Day	6 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm (CANCELED)	7 School Board Meeting 6:30 pm CCS Planning Board Meeting 6:30 pm	8	9 "Eating You Alive" film NPCL 6:00 pm	10 Library Board of Trustees NPCL 9:00 am
11 NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am ZOOM WMBC Services 10:00 am	12	13 Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	14 Water District Meeting 6:30 pm	15	16	17
18 Father's Day NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am ZOOM WMBC Services 10:00 am Deadline for New Portlander Submissions 4:00 pm	19 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	20 Deadline for New Portlander Submissions 4:00 pm	21	22	23	24
25 NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am ZOOM WMBC Services 10:00 am	26	27 Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	28	29	30	31