



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: 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

Town Manager

For the month of August the Town Office will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items. At the end of the month we will bring all of the donations to the People Who Care Food Cupboard in Madison. The Town of New Portland supports this food cupboard as it services the needs of the residents in New Portland. For each person who makes a donation, we will again enter their name into a raffle for a basket of goodies like we did in June. A huge thank you to all who stopped into the office on Thursdays during the month of July and bought baked goods. All of those proceeds were donated to the New Portland Community Library. We will post a final amount of the proceeds on the Town's Website and Facebook Page.

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 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 3pm - 6pm

• 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

Selectmen

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for June 1, 2021

Roster: Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Tina Poulin, Wayne Rundlett; Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett

1. Raymond called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Wayne motioned to accept them as written, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.
3. Old Business: There was a brief discussion on the door for the Sand Salt Shed and the need for an electrician to complete the project. Stacie will look into contacting an electrician to do so.
4. Items by the Public:
 - a. Christopher Williams arrived late, and there was a discussion regarding the junkyard violation notice which he had received. He stated to the Board that he would need another two or three months to clean up the property where he resides on Lemon Stream Road. Raymond asked if he could do this in under two months; Christopher responded that he could certainly try.

- b. There was a discussion regarding other properties that received a junkyard violation notice. All but one other has made improvements to the property. The Board discussed a property in the West Village that still hasn't been properly cleaned up, and the Selectmen asked Stacie to reach out to the resident and let the resident know that they have until June 21 to be compliant, or the selectmen will move forward with penalties, per the Junkyard Ordinance.
5. Department Heads: Kip discussed with the Board the repairs that have been done to the trucks and upcoming repairs that will be done.
6. Items by the Town Manager:
 - a. Review and sign payroll, A/P warrants.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen:
 - a. Employee evaluations: Raymond turned over to Stacie evaluation sheets for her, the animal control officer (Keith Mudgett), the fire chief (Kip Poulin), the road commissioner (Gary Agren) and the assessor (Audra Swanson). Raymond stated that some of the topics were not applicable for the positions, and he answered them to the best of his abilities. Stacie asked if any one of the employees wanted to discuss the evaluations with the Board, if that was okay. Raymond and all Board members responded yes. Raymond asked that Audra Swanson, the tax assessor, to either attend a meeting or two to discuss work done or work to be done, or if she would submit some sort of report to keep the Board up to speed on what is going on in the assessing department.
 - b. There was a discussion on possible volunteers for West New Portland Cemetery Maintenance. Matt and Kathy Sleeper, who have done the maintenance of the West Cemetery for the last ten years, stated that they would be willing to take this over. Mike Malesky offered any assistance that he could provide to them as he takes care of the East Cemetery. The Board discussed with the Sleepers all of the responsibilities for which they will need to be responsible. Matt and Kathy stated that they understood and agreed to do all of them. Tina motioned to authorize Matt and Kathy Sleeper to take these duties over, Wayne seconded and all were in favor.
 - c. Raymond inquired about adding the feature for residents to do online re-registrations. We discussed that there is usually around 5,000 to 6,000 generated from the agent fees collected for processing motor vehicle registrations; and that we would lose some of that revenue, but the state does reimburse excise tax

money. Raymond stated he would touch base with Embden, as they do online re-registrations and see what the percentage is for use of this feature so that maybe we could predict an approximate loss of revenue if we did add this feature. Stacie would get more details directly from BMV and report back to the Board with that information.

- d. Tina inquired about changing from a three member board to a member member board so if someone was unable to attend, there would be enough people present to make decisions for the town. Stacie shared with the Board the knowledge that she had on what the process was, and she would confirm with MMA about it so that the Board had all of the details for this procedure. There was a brief discussion on this being a topic before and how it would increase the budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the June 21 meeting. smr

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for June 21, 2021

Roster: Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Tina Poulin, Wayne Rundlett; Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett, Craig Lehigh, Garrett Oswald, Judi Wills, 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, Tina seconded and all were in favor.
3. Old Business: There was a very brief discussion regarding having a hard time finding an electrician to hardwire the overhead door at the sand/salt shed.
4. Items by the Public:
 - a. Stacie shared with the Board that Joseph James had concerns about Wire Bridge area. He has been volunteering his time and equipment to mow the field area at the Wire Bridge along with clearing branches, etc. from the backstop area. He would like to see the town officials serve the public at a BBQ there on site this summer. He would also like to get people to play ball there again. Raymond asked if anyone told him about all the poison ivy that was there in that area. Stacie assured him that she had.
 - b. Before the meeting ended Craig Lehigh brought before the Board a matter about which he was concerned regarding the square footage of his property and his valuation. He stated that he discussed the matter with Audra, the current assessor's agent, and she was to come look at his property this spring, and he had not

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

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

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

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

heard from her as of yet. Raymond asked Stacie to bring this to Audra's attention. Stacie took Craig's number so she could have Audra contact him on or before Wednesday when she was due in next.

5. Department Heads:

Brian discussed with the Board his concerns about residents building without obtaining a proper building permit. That there were at least two or more places which had been built and not pulled a permit, and when the Code Enforcement Officer gave them a permit to fill out and return with an after the fact payment of \$20, they still had not done that. He felt it was important if the Board was going to enforce one ordinance such as the Junkyard Ordinance the Board should enforce all ordinances when dealing with violations. The Board agreed, there was a discussion about the matter. Brian updated the Board on a new issue with the Fire Department pumper and that parts were finally being shipped which were ordered quite some time ago for other necessary repairs on the trucks. Brian also updated the Board on a commercial project that went before the planning board last month and was approved. Benjamin West is building a storage facility at the end of Chick Road.

6. Items by the Town Manager:

- a. The Board reviewed and signed payroll, A/P warrants.
- b. Stacie provided the Board with copies of all of the job descriptions, the employee evaluation, and the Labor Policy for them to have time to review the documents and update them at their leisure. Then at a later date review all if any changes and vote on the matter. Stacie relayed to the Board members that many of the job descriptions were done by the Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) back in 1998. Raymond agreed that even the employee evaluation should be revamped as some of the items on it did not really pertain to this size of a town and its employees.
- c. Stacie discussed with the Board members her concerns on how they were handling complaints. Her concern is that if the complaints which are coming in about the town office or the staff there, and the name of the person who complained was not shared that it made it very difficult to thoroughly explain a particular situation. She was concerned that in a four month span that four complaints had come in regarding her or the office staff. And when these complaints were brought up at a public meeting without more details, it was more one sided and unfair to the staff member involved. She reminded all Board members that there were cameras onsite at the town office inside and out and there were cameras outside of Community Building and Fire Station, and at any time footage could be reviewed to determine if there was in fact a legitimate complaint to discuss. Raymond and Tina stated they understood where she was coming from but felt it

was very important to keep a name confidential if that person asked for it to be as there may be some sort of retaliation if their name was given. Stacie felt it was a violation of the Freedom of Information Act if a request was made to reveal the name of a complainant, but Tina did not feel it was. Tina asked Stacie if she had the Freedom of Information Act with her, Stacie did not but told Tina that she would make sure to get a copy of it to her tomorrow. There was some discussion about the matter, and the public contributed to this topic, stating that they could see both sides, and that if a complaint was brought to a Board member's attention there should be some documentation and research done, and then if it appeared to be an issue or an ongoing problem to address it publicly. Raymond stated he would like to think about how they could handle complaints in the future and revisit the subject at a later time. Stacie also shared with the Board she had roughly 36 days of vacation coming to her as she did not take much time off last year. She would be taking the 6th, 7th and the 8th off and asked if the board wanted to reschedule the meeting, they were due to have on the 6th or just have their next scheduled meeting on July 19. Raymond thought that unless something pressing came up, he felt that just having the meeting on the July 19 was fine. The other Board members were in favor. The meeting for the July 6 would be cancelled unless something pressing came up.

- d. There was also a brief discussion about a matter at the Wire Bridge and serving a No Trespassing Order on someone who kept bothering people at the Town's property at the Wire Bridge.

7. Items by the Board of Selectmen:

- a. Raymond opened the one winter sand bid which was received. It was Jordan's Excavation for \$13.23 per yard making it a total of \$34,398.00. There was a lengthy discussion on the matter, giving prices that were given at the last year's winter sand bids and possible ways to get more contractors to participate with a multiyear contract to put up winter sand. Wayne motioned to accept the bid from Jordan Excavation at \$13.23 per yard, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.
- b. Raymond discussed with the other Board members he had spoken with a couple of other towns which had used the rapid renewal online registration feature that the state offers, and they do not lose much revenue at all. Stacie updated the Board she had already signed up for this additional feature and is just waiting to hear back from the State to get things started so New Portland residents will be

able to process their re-registrations online for their convenience.

- c. Tina share with all in attendance that Fine Line Paving had gotten back to her about a quote to do an overlay or topcoat on the parking lot at the Community Room. The amount quoted was \$25,000.00, and there was no decision made.
- d. The Board reviewed spreadsheets regarding additional essential worker pay amounts for the town's employees who worked during all of the Covid-19 issues and State of Emergency. All State of Maine Municipalities, along with other States, were due to receive funds from The American Rescue Plan Act. These funds could only be used for very specific Covid related projects and/or expenses, and there was a very lengthy discussion about these funds and the options that the Board has. Raymond stated New Portland is limited on what it could use the funds. The Board reviewed one option which is to retroactively pay all the town's essential workers up to an additional \$13 per hour. Stacie provided the Board members with detailed spreadsheets giving totals of hours worked and approximate amounts for a \$3, \$4 and an additional \$5 per hour possibilities for each town employee who worked from March of 2020 through until the end of 2021. There were a couple of other things that these funds could be used for being Covid related. Cleaning and cleaning supplies, and a license needed to obtain to apply for federal funding or grants. Stacie shared with the Board and those in attendance that throughout many documents on possible projects or ways to utilize these funds allotted for municipalities, it suggests many times to use some of the funding by offering premium pay to essential workers in recognition of their sacrifices over the last year. At this time New Portland is eligible for approximately \$72,000.00 to use on Covid related projects or premium pay to essential workers. The Board asked what some other towns were proposing to spend their federal funds on, Stacie stated that the one town she did have an opportunity to talk to, they really hadn't had a chance to have much discussion on it as they had their annual town meeting in early June. Raymond and Tina stated they needed more time to review all of the information before making any decisions on how to spend any of the federal funding. The matter was tabled until the July 19 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the July 19 meeting. smr

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett

RSU 74 / School Board

Due to Mr. Ela's vacation, there is no School Board Report this month.

New Portland Community Library

Hello. First of all, we would like to extend a huge thank you to all who participated in our Chinese Auction in May and our Plant, Bake, and Book Sale in June. It was a great success and so great to see everyone. Special thanks to Buster and Judy at The Happy Horseshoe and Richard, Bonnie, and the Atwood Greenhouse family for their generous donations to our fundraisers.

Second on our agenda, it has become clear the afternoon hours on Thursday are NOT popular or conducive to your needs. We will therefore be changing the Thursday hours from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm to 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm which corresponds with the hours of the Town Office. We love to see you and have you browse, however, if this is not working with your schedule please e-mail or call us with an order list. Sheila or Beth will confirm with you the order and arrange a pick up time.

Finally a list of our upcoming fundraisers: Cookbooks! We would love for you to share your favorite recipes, we have a template which can be picked up or e-mailed to you. The deadline for submission of recipes will be October 1. We hope to have the finished product in time for the upcoming holiday season. Please keep that in mind for your upcoming holiday shopping.

August 1 will begin a 50/50 Raffle; this raffle will be drawn at our upcoming craft fair. The lucky winner will have unexpected cash and a place to spend it!

September 1 will begin our "Buy A Leaf" fundraiser. Your name will be inscribed on leaves and attached to our community tree. This is a great way to raise funds, add art to our library, and thank you for your contribution. November Craft Fair: Would you be interested in having a booth at our craft fair? Please contact us for more information. The exact date should be available very soon.

On another note, the Maine State Library replaced our existing edge-router, there is nothing wrong with the one taken out of service. Therefore, we currently have a FREE edge-router available if you would like it. It has plugins for eth0, eth1, and eth2; the model is an ERLite-3. Please reach out with any questions or requests by calling 207-628-6561, emailing: newportlandcl@gmail.com, via Facebook, or of course, by visiting the library. Have a great month, and we look forward to seeing you soon. Respectfully...

Submitted: Becky Knowles-Redlevske



Friday night film at the New Portland Community Library on August 6 at 6:00 pm. Admission is FREE. This fascinating film highlights several of the world's expert seed savers, including our own Will Bonsall who lives right up the road in Industry, Maine. Questions? Contact Beth Perera 802/342-2946 (A text is best.)

Submitted: Beth Perera

New Portland Churches

The Western Mountains Baptist Church on Route 27 is now a "cool church". As of last week, we now have air conditioning in the sanctuary! What a blessing this will be on Sunday mornings and during the week for other times of gatherings and small groups. If you need a break from the heat while the church is open please drop in. Someone is there most days.

Thursday is our official office time from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. This is a good day to come in to use the library, find quiet time for study or prayer, and grab a free cd of a weekly sermon or to have questions/concerns addressed.

For the summer months, other "cool" days include Tuesday mornings 9:00 am - 12:00 pm for sewing class and Monday and Thursday mornings, 9:00 – 10:00 am for an exercise class for seniors called Strong Bones. Monday evenings at 6:30 pm is a Men's Bible Study. The first Saturday of the month is a Men's Breakfast at 8:00 am. The second and fourth Saturdays there is a time for Women's Fellowship at 1:00 pm. The fourth Saturday, there is a group of volunteers preparing home cooked meals to be delivered to elderly in the WMBC service area, including residents of New Portland. If you, or someone you know, would like a free hot meal delivered right at home please let us know. Bridging the Gap currently delivers 60-ish meals once a month, and they are always looking to add more folks to the list. Call Cathy at 678-2442 for more information.

The New Hope Women's Shelter in Solon is one of the local ministries WMBC provides support. August 15 Director Rebecca Philpot will give a short presentation on all the good work God has for them to do at the homeless shelter in Solon. You can read more about how they help women and children by checking out their website: newhopeshelter.com or call their office at 643-6015. You can also find their information on the WMBC website, westernmountainschurch.org, under "Resources". If you would like to meet Rebecca and hear what she has to say, please join us at 10:00 am on August 15.

Sunday morning services begin at 10:00 am. We have announcements and sing a few songs before Pastor Tom delivers a message from the Bible (currently preaching through 2Thessalonians). If parents want, Nursery and Children's Church is available during the message - up to third grade. Once the message is over, there is another song and prayer. All this takes approximately 45 minutes. Opportunities to have coffee and talk with friends happen before and after the service. If you are unable to attend our "cool church" at 10:00 am on Sundays live messages can be seen on Youtube; search Western Mountains Baptist Church. While there, please subscribe to the WMBC channel.

Enjoy blueberry season!

Submitted: Crystal Fitch



The New Portlander

Established July 1994

901 River Road
New Portland, Maine 04961

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NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR AUGUST 2021 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	2 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	3 School Board Meeting 6:30 pm CCS Planning Board Meeting 6:30 pm	4 Recreation Committee Community Room 6:30 pm	5 Film NPCL Seed 6:00 pm FREE admission	6 Town Office Open 8:00 am - noon	7 Library Board of Trustees NPCL 9:00 am
8 NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am ZOOM WMBC Services 10:00 am	9 Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	10 Water District Meeting 6:30 pm	11 Deadline for New Portlander Submissions 4:00 pm	12 NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am ZOOM WMBC Services 10:00 am	13 Father's Day	14 NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am ZOOM WMBC Services 10:00 am
15 NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am ZOOM WMBC Services 10:00 am	16 Deadline for New Portlander Submissions 4:00 pm	17 Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	18 NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am ZOOM WMBC Services 10:00 am	19 Deadline for New Portlander Submissions 4:00 pm	20 Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	21 NVCC Coffee 10:30 am Service 11:00 am ZOOM WMBC Services 10:00 am
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