



NEW PORTLANDER

INFORMATION IS THE CURRENCY OF DEMOCRACY — THOMAS JEFFERSON

The Town of New Portland is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.

DOUG KERR PHOTO

E-mail: 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

PUBLICATION VOLUME 28 • NUMBER 6 • DECEMBER 1, 2021

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: 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: Dillon Wellman - 207-405-1134

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

Town Manager

Reminder: Stacie and Mallory will be having their Annual Giving Tree at the Town Office starting November 22. We will be taking gifts until December 20. There will be gift tags which will be hanging on the tree at the Town Office; these tags will have an item listed on it. Come and choose one of your choice. If you know of anyone in need for the holiday season please contact Stacie by email; newportlandtownmanager@gmail.com or Mallory at the Town Office 628-4441 or her email; townofnewportland@gmail.com

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

RSU 74 / School Board

The November board meeting was held at Carrabec Community School. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjustments to the Agenda: One item, to see if the board would approve the second reading of policy JIC, was removed from the agenda.

Minutes: The minutes of the October board meeting were approved.

Presentation: There was none.

Superintendent Report: 1.) The DOT has been in communication with RSU 74 regarding work that will be done on the Solon/Embden Bridge. 2.) To comply with federal/state regulations, RSU 74 will need to either show proof of COVID vaccination, or submit to weekly testing. 3.) Next week there will be no school on Thursday (Veterans Day) and a Workshop Day on Friday. Michael Chase "The Kindness Guy" will present. There will be a focus on "engagement".

Appointments: Jenny Rollins - After-School Program, Loren Soucie - Part Time Nurse, Kent Garland - Maintenance/Grounds

Resignations: (at conclusion of 2021-2022 academic year) Doug Larlee - CCS, grade 2; Priscilla Ellis - CCS, grade 7; Lynn Smith - CCS, ed tech 3

Admin Reports: 1.) Jean Butler told the board that the place settings had been created by Jazmyn Wagg's students. They were inspired by a discussion with Mr. Tracy, in which he stated

that he preferred big candy bars and also dressed as a biker for Halloween. 2.) The other administrators did not add to the reports they had previously submitted. 3.) When asked about sports, Athletic Director Erik Carey told the board seven students are interested in bowling. He asked Mr. Tracy to authorize a stipend for a bowling coach, and it has been done. The position has been posted. There continues to be interest in the idea of creating an E-Sports program. Board member Erik Ewing and Scott Hall have been involved with this from the tech standpoint. The start-up cost of such a program would be substantial. 5.) Board member Larry Dunphy reported that he had been contacted by people from Sugarloaf, and it may be possible to offer up a low-cost ski program for students in grades 4-8.

Committees: The Academic Sub-Committee met on October 13. Academic data was reviewed. It seemed desirable to look at CCS as two distinct entities with k-5 and 6-8 being analyzed separately. The science curriculum was discussed. The purchase of new middle/high school English-Language Arts textbooks is under consideration.

Public Participation: The next several pages in my notebook recap the public comments. Rather than recreate it all, I will be lazy and give a brief summary: The major topic was the agenda item to follow, which dealt with a mask mandate until January 5. Many spoke in favor of masks. Many were vehemently opposed. Also on the radar was the remote option. Some speakers faulted administration for not offering a remote option. Others were unhappy that synchronous learning was not taking place.

Masks Until January 5: Mr. Tracy explained his rationale for this agenda item was simply to keep kids in school. While he recognized that masking is a polarizing political issue, he was not looking at masking from that perspective. Under CDC guidelines, if masking is in place, fewer students need to be sent home as close contacts, and that was his priority. After much discussion, the board voted 8-6 in favor of masking through January 5.

Remote/Synchronous: After the mask vote, a new motion was put forward. This was to instruct Mr. Tracy to meet and consult with Carrabec Educational Association about the implementation of remote/synchronous learning. He stated that all through the spring, he and the board had operated with the belief that remote learning had been "less than successful in 20-21". Therefore, the push all spring and summer had been for "all students, all the time". It had been clear there would be no remote option in 2021-2022. (Note: here is a sentence I wrote in my June board meeting recap: 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.) Since there was no thought of having a remote option, synchronous learning had not been explored. In any case, after the lengthy mask debate, the board seemed to have come around to the view that remote, and even synchronous

learning was now essential. The motion to direct Mr. Tracy to meet with the Association to discuss remote and synchronous learning passed overwhelmingly.

A special board meeting has been scheduled for November 17, where remote and synchronous learning will be further discussed.

Executive Session, Superintendent Evaluation: This was the final agenda item.

Special Board Meeting: November 17, 2021

The special board meeting was held at CCS.

The meeting was a ninety minute affair; This meeting featured much discussion about remote learning, synchronous learning, learning packets, and learning platforms.

The one action was a motion to "direct the superintendent to provide updated progress on improvements for students in quarantine for remote learning access and to include synchronous learning."

The motion carried with only one person objecting.

The superintendent will report his findings at a December 15 special board meeting.

Submitted: David Ela, President, Carrabec Educational Association

Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers

The November 2021 meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by newly elected Vice President

Lewis Wills with 11 members present. The secretary read the minutes from the last meeting of November 2020. The minutes were accepted. The treasurer's report was read and accepted. Kendall Knowles reported both insurances have been paid for the year.

TRAIL MASTER: Several trails have had marker stakes in the fields and trail signs have been put up. Two existing bridges have been replanked and one new bridge has been built. A new culvert has been placed to drain a water hole on one trail. A huge "thank you" to those who have volunteered their time to help prep the trails for the upcoming season.

OLD BUSINESS: Metal stakes still need to be purchased so the bridge number signs can be put up.

NEW BUSINESS: Lewis Wills was elected vice president filling the vacancy of that position. A club member brought discussed setting up an electronic payment system for joining the club.

Another member has previous experience in setting these up and is willing to help the club do this.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm. The next meeting will be December 11 at the New Portland Community Room, starting at 6:30 pm.

Submitted: Joyce Knowles

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.

New Portland Community Library

Happy Holidays New Portlanders,

Please come visit, shop, and eat with us at the library on Saturday December 4 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. We will have vendors offering their wonderful items – a very talented group! Do *you* have a book lover on your holiday list? We have just the thing. We have a number of *pristine collector edition classics* for sale! These books are beautifully bound and have stunning illustrations. What a wonderful gift while donating to your favorite library at the same time. We will also be offering chili, cornbread, dynamites, and biscuits for your dining pleasure. Along with a bake sale table, books, dvd's, and a "this & that corner" and lots of smiles! As yet, we have collected only a small number of recipes to date; we would love it if you would drop off one of your favorite recipes and any little story that may go along with the recipe. Our goal is to publish a full, beautiful, cookbook that may bring a smile and a memory along with the joy of cooking for your list of loved ones by next holiday season, hopefully sooner. From all of us, may your season be "Merry and Bright" and filled with Love! Respectfully...

Submitted: Becky Knowles-Redlevske, Secretary

New Portland Churches

New Portland Community Church News December 2021 -

And so, we begin the season of Advent. Advent is the season in preparation for Christmas. It is a time of contemplation, a time of looking inward in preparation for the most joyous event of the liturgical year, the birth of Christ on Christmas Day. A candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. The four candles represent Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Advent began on November 28 with the lighting of the candle of Hope. We hope for a joyful holiday season, we hope for good health to enjoy our family and friends, and we hope for peace the world over.

There will be a few special events surrounding the Christmas season: On December 19 from 12:30 – 1:30 pm there will be a Christmas Stocking and Gift Give-Away at the New Portland Church. There will be an assortment of games, puzzles, crafts, and school supplies available to choose from. Masks will be required as the gift give-away will be an indoor event. You may have stockings delivered to your car if you prefer. Masks will be available if you forget yours.

There will be a Care and Compassion Service at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 21 at the Fairbanks Union Church in Farmington. This is a quiet service of hope for those who struggle with loss during the Christmas season. It is a lovely service for anyone who needs a quiet moment in the midst of a chaotic holiday season.

The Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols will be held on December 24 at 5:00 pm with MaryEllen Royce leading the congregation through some of the most beloved carols and scripture readings of the church year. Join us in the big church for this lovely Christmas Eve service. Cookies and cocoa provided as usual. Masks will be required.

The worship service on December 26 will be an informal gathering for prayers and conversation. A moment to relax in the midst of the holidays. We welcome anyone who wishes a cup of coffee and a conversation.

We are happy to report Thea and Dawn, dogs and cats have arrived safely in Elgin, Illinois. We miss them, but we wish them well on their new path.

While the Christmas Service will be held in the church our regular Sunday services are held the adjoining Joyce Pease meeting house. As always, coffee hour begins at 10:30 am, prior to the service for responsibly distanced coffee and cookies. Worship service begins at 11:00 am. We are still practicing social distancing and request that if you have not been vaccinated, please do wear a mask indoors.

As promised in the October newsletter the list of those preaching for the month of December: December 5: Doug Dunlap, December 12, 19 and 24: MaryEllen Royce, December 26: informal gathering.

Online services are still available through Zoom and Facebook live at the links below. Please note the online services are held at 9:00 am. If you have trouble connecting to the service, please contact Nan or Judi at the numbers below.

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.

A Zoom link 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. Respectfully...

Submitted: Nan Berry

The Western Mountains Baptist Church continues to meet Sundays at 10:00 am for worship services. Beginning December 5 a new study for all ages will be offered at 9:00 am. The Gospel Project is a Christ centered Bible study. Each week several groups will meet at the same time, studying the same material. Groups will be divided into adult, youth (grades 7-12), grades 4-6 and younger children. Anyone is welcome to join this "new to WMBC" study at any time. Also, if you can make it at 9:00 am and not at 10:00 am, please know you are still welcome.

Again this year, WMBC is collecting cookies for the Children's Christmas Party at the Free Street Church in Skowhegan. The goal is 1000 cookies! This goal has been reached every year so far. Cookies need to be at WMBC (928 Carrabassett Road) by Friday, December 17 at noon to be delivered to Skowhegan before the party on Saturday. For more information on Cookies for Kids, or if you would like to sign up to donate cookies, please call the church at 265-2557.

For December, Bridging the Gap meals will be prepared and delivered on December 18. Meals are provided for the elderly and/or disabled in New Portland, Lexington, Kingfield, Freeman Township and Salem Township. The meals are free, hot and all homemade. Call the church or Cathy (678-2442) to get on the monthly meal list.

As we end 2021, know the prayer teams at WMBC pray regularly for our local communities and the people in them. If you have a specific prayer need please let it be known by calling the church (265-2557), emailing pastorwmbc@gmail.com or submit your concern on the website: www.westernmountainschurch.org.

Submitted: Crystal Fitch



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 DECEMBER 2021 DOUG KEHR PHOTO						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 School Board Meeting 6:30 pm CCS Planning Board Meeting 6:30 pm	2 Recreation Committee Community Room 6:30 pm	3	4 Town Office Closed
5 NPCC Service 11:00 am 9:00 am ZOOM/Facebook WMBC Services 10:00 am	6	7 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	8 Water District Meeting 6:30 pm	9	10	11 Library Board of Trustees NPCL 9:00 am
12 NPCC Service 11:00 am 9:00 am ZOOM/Facebook WMBC Services 10:00 am	13	14 Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	15 Special School Board Meeting 6:30 pm CCS	16	17	18
19 NPCC Service 11:00 am 9:00 am ZOOM/Facebook WMBC Services 10:00 am Stocking & Gift Give-Away 12:30 - 1:30 pm New Portland Community Church	20 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm Deadline for New Portlander Submissions 4:00 pm	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm North New Portland Church	25 Christmas
26 NPCC Service 11:00 am 9:00 am ZOOM/Facebook WMBC Services 10:00 am	27	28 Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	29	30	31	