



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: 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

On Monday, January 17 the Town Office will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

Selectmen

Minutes for Selectmen's Meeting October 18, 2021

Roster: Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Tina Poulin, Wayne Rundlett;
Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett, Brian Rundlett, Garrett Oswald,
Christeen and Andy Mudgett, Kyle Handrahan, Jasmyn Wagg

1. Raymond called the meeting to order at 6:29 pm.
2. The Board reviewed the minutes from previous meeting. Tina motioned to accept them as written, Wayne seconded and all were in favor.
3. Old Business: Jasmyn Wagg shared with the board that she was still looking into having a high school student assist with digital mapping updates. She will let the Board know more when she does.
4. Items by the Public: none
5. Department Heads: none
6. Items by the Town Manager:
 - a. The Board reviewed and signed the payroll and A/P warrants.
 - b. Stacie share with the Board that Lewis Wills offered to fix the bump in Town Office driveway for costs only. There was a brief discussion, and the Board decided to table until 2022.
 - c. Stacie shared with the Board that John Brucker offered to do new Town of New Portland signs, and he was also interested in purchasing the old fire station in the West Village. There was a brief discussion, and the Board stated that at this time they were not interested in selling the old fire station in the West Village. And the town signs should be part of the 2022 budget discussions.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen:
 - a. The Board reviewed an abatement request from James Davis in the amount of \$532.50. Raymond motioned to

grant the request, Wayne seconded and all were in favor.

- b. The Board reviewed and signed a quitclaim deed for Deveau property on the Chick Road.
- c. Raymond skipped over the motion to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A), due to stated it wasn't necessary anymore, and she forgot to email Stacie to let her know.

There was a brief discussion on the Sand Salt Shed building, no decisions were made.

Stacie informed the Board that as of October 25 she would be out on medical leave, and that Mallory would be running the office. Stacie would do as much from home as she could to assist.

Wayne motioned to adjourn the meeting, Tina seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47. pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the December 5 meeting. smr

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett

RSU 74 / School Board

The December 1, 2021 School Board Meeting was held at Carrabec Community School.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The board chairman reminded the board members and audience that RSU 74 schools have a mask mandate in place and encouraged people to wear masks.

Adjustments to the Agenda: One appointment was added to the Appointments section of the agenda.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 3 board meeting and the November 17 special board meeting were approved.

Board member Laura Layman spoke. She noted that even after the board chairman's reminder about masks, several board members were still not wearing them. She asked the board members who were not wearing masks to put them on. She stated that she was disappointed to see board members not wearing masks during the hour or two in which they attend a board meeting, when staff and students must wear masks for many hours each day. She asked board members to be mindful of people who have health issues and might, therefore, be at greater risk of COVID. She also suggested that board meetings have a Zoom option again, in the event that board members do not wish to wear a mask. Mrs. Layman's remarks did not appear to inspire the board members who were not wearing a mask to put one on. Mrs. Layman left the meeting.

Decision Grid: Mr. Tracy shared a document with the board. It was a grid designed to give the board members more information on how he reaches decisions. One factor he

considers is whether a decision is in the best interests of the students, staff and community. He wants his decisions to be consistent with the district vision and mission. A decision must also be legal and abide by district policy. Cost is a factor. Potential value must outweigh risk.

Award: Mr. Tracy announced that school nurse Laurie Hanson-Hiscock was the recipient of a Distinguished Service Award. He commended the work that Laurie does and thanked her for how helpful she has been during the COVID era.

Superintendent Report: Mr. Tracy had three more updates. 1.) The week prior to Thanksgiving there were nine positive COVID cases district-wide. Following the break, there was one additional student positive, and one teacher positive. 2.) Todd Sanders, the superintendent of RSU 58, recently inquired to see if RSU 74 would be willing to take a portion of RSU 58 students in the event Mt. Abram High School closes. Mr. Tracy indicated he would be open to discussing this. 3.) Support Staff contract negotiations will begin on December 9.

Appointments: Jamie Robinson - CCS girls' basketball, Erik Carey - CHS boys' varsity basketball, Andrew Ferrari - CHS boys' jv basketball, Rob Peabody - CHS boys' basketball volunteer, Skip Rugh - CHS girls' varsity basketball

Dulcie Welch - CHS girls' jv basketball, Mike Cahill - CHS girls' basketball volunteer, Macy Mericia - CHS girls' basketball volunteer, Hollye Dunphy - CCS boys' basketball, Mike Stone - CCS Math Club, Patrick Daubenberger - CHS girls' basketball volunteer, Kara Hebert - CHS girls' basketball volunteer

Resignation: Christine Stoddard - CHS custodian

Admin Reports: 1.) Jean Butler told the board that the Santa candy packs at the board table were made by Rachel Layman's Solon first graders. On December 2 work was being done on the Garret Schenck School furnace. As this was happening, fumes were noticed. There were some reports of sore throat and headache. The GS students were transported to CCS, and they were dismissed from there. There were no lasting problems with the furnace. Jean thanked Keith Mahoney and the CCS staff for being very welcoming. 2.) Keith Mahoney was asked about a recent boiler leak at CCS. Beyond some damage to ceiling tiles, there was no other damage. The leak was caused by a failure to deliver oil. The company which was supposed to deliver the oil missed two deliveries. 3.) Lori Agren mentioned the furnace fumes and a recent flood at GS. She thanked Christine Stoddard for her years of service and commended the job she had done. 4.) Tim Richards said a goal is to improve the senior year experience at CHS. Students look forward to having senior privileges, but there will be discussions regarding whether senior privileges are a good thing. Another concern is that the lack of electives lead to too many senior year study halls.

Committees: 1.) The Superintendent Eval Committee met on November 3. The board approved a contract extension for Mr. Tracy, and he signed the contract. 2.) The board and association

NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is January 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.

negotiating teams met on November 10 to discuss remote/synchronous. Mr. Tracy and Mr. Twitchell have learned the WMEC Remote Academy has open seats in all areas except 9-12 Science. 3.) The Finance Committee met with the auditor on November 17. The audit was good. No violations were reported. The books are in order with no errors.

Public Participation: No one spoke.

Student School Board Representative: Starting in January there will be a student rep to the school board. CHS senior Trinity Slate will be the student rep.

Winter Sports Update: (The meeting was moving at a very brisk pace until this item.) Erik Carey spoke about the safety protocols for the winter sports season. There were COVID-related interruptions to the fall sports season, and it is hoped this winter will be different. The tentative plan was as follows: All players and spectators will wear masks at home basketball games. The referees may not be masking, as they are generally a distance away from others. Most schools are allowing some fans this year but only home fans. That was (originally) the plan for CHS. There was much discussion and debate as to whether to allow fans of the opposing team to attend basketball games at CHS. At CCS basketball games, some home and opposing fans will be allowed. (The distinction between CHS and CCS was that generally, more fans attend high school sporting events than the middle school sporting events due to the time of day in which the events are held. When the basketball teams play on the road, they will be subject to a "When in Rome, do as the Romans do" type policy. If they are in a school which requires masking, they will follow the policy. If they are in a school that does not require masking, masking will be optional. This generated much discussion. There will be a CHS bowling team this year. They will bowl in Skowhegan. The bowlers will be masked. There are four students interested in E-Sports. These events will be held at CHS, and the athletes will be masked. After much discussion, a motion was made to change the guidance for opposing team fans at CHS basketball games. Each player for the opposing team will be given two tickets to distribute. So if (hypothetically) the Spruce Mountain basketball team brings 21 players - between varsity and JV - to Carrabec, 42 Spruce Mountain fans can attend the game. This motion passed 7-5.

Adding Old Business to the Agenda: At future meetings, there will be an agenda item for the purpose of discussing "Old Business".

The special board meeting to discuss remote/synchronous learning will be December 15.

Special School Board Meeting December 15, 2021

The special board meeting was a ninety minute event.

Mr. Tracy updated the board on some information he and the admin team have gathered in the past month. Information was compiled from twenty school districts in a roughly one hour radius from RSU 74. Of the 20, only seven had some sort of synchronous learning at the high school level. Of the 20, only six had some sort of synchronous learning at the middle school level. None had synchronous learning at the k-5 level.

The definition of "synchronous learning" has become a bit ambiguous. For some, it creates a vision of an instructor engaging both in person and quarantined students via Zoom or

Google Meet. For many of the districts that used "synchronous learning", what it really entailed was just a "digital check in" - a brief encounter on screen but not the full class period.

Mr. Tracy made the following recommendation to the board:

- 1.) Grades 9-12: Teachers make digital/synchronous check-in with quarantined students each day. It could be during a class period. It could be during a prep. If it took place after 3:00 pm, teachers would be paid per the language in the contract.
- 2.) Grades 6-8: At the middle school level, a remote learning facilitator would do a digital check in with quarantined students.
- 3.) Grades k-5: At the elementary level, things would stay as they are.

The board voted on Mr. Tracy's recommendation. The board did not approve the recommendation.

Board members offered other scenarios. A new motion was put forward:

- 1.) Grades 9-12: CHS teachers will do a synchronous/digital check in with quarantined students during each class period.
- 2.) Grades 6-8: Middle school teachers will do a synchronous/digital check in with quarantined students during each class period.
- 3.) Grades k-5: At the k-5 level, things will stay as they are. However, there will be a weekly packet check of any work packets which are sent home to quarantined students.

The final motion, it was approved.

Submitted: David Ela, President, Carrabec Educational Association

New Portland Community Library

Happy New Year New Portlanders: We hope this finds you happy and healthy with warm memories of family and friends during the holiday season. With another crazy year behind us, the library folks would like to thank everyone for making our fundraising efforts a success with all your donations of time, items, food, and of course, purchases! *You are amazing and we appreciate you!*

We are happy to announce pristine classic edition books for your review and purchase (\$20.00 each for most). We also have a display of classics that you can take out, lots of great reading for a cold winter's night! We received a grant that included purchase of some of these classics as well as new books about Maine and by Maine authors, and more. We were also able to obtain historic maps of Somerset and Franklin counties.

Other good news, interlibrary loans have been resumed once more. Please check in with our staff for details. Movies and books! What a great way to snuggle in on a lazy winter day.

Hours of operation: Tuesday 8:00 am to noon, Thursday 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Saturday 8:00 am to noon. Contact is available by calling 207-628-6561, e-mailing newportlandcl@gmail., and via Facebook. To avoid frustration please call ahead during times of inclement weather should closing be deemed necessary for safety.

Submitted: Shelia Atwood

Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers

The meeting was called to order with six members present. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Trail Master: The hydraulic pump and hydraulic motor for the Bombardier groomer had to be sent away to be repaired. They have been repaired and a mechanic will be putting them back into the groomer this week. ATF and gear oil has been purchased for both groomers.

New Business: At past meetings discussions had been held about making it possible for people to be able to join the club electronically. One member has been looking into the options we have as a club. He is hoping to have details worked out so by the January meeting he will have a proposal for the club to view, discuss and vote on.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

The next meeting will be January 8, starting at 6:30 pm at the fire station meeting room.

Happy Holidays!

Submitted: Joyce Knowles

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 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.

Be safe and well. Respectfully...

Submitted: Nan Berry

The Western Mountains Baptist Church had a fully blessed 2021 and looks forward to 2022 by remaining faithful and steadfast. Celebrating ten years of having had the church building built on Route 27 in New Portland was certainly a highlight.

WMBC is excited to announce that as of last month, Sunday School is being offered at 9:00 am each Sunday morning before the 10:00 am worship. Classes are offered to all ages: adults, grades 7-12, grades 4-6 and young children. At this time, nursery is only available during the 10:00 am service. All groups are covering the same (age appropriate) scriptures. This allows for families to share and discuss the lessons covered. The curriculum WMBC being used is called The Gospel Project. For more information check out the website, <https://www.gospelproject.com/> or come to WMBC any Sunday morning at 9:00 am. Books are available at no charge. Children's Church and nursery continue to be available during the 10:00 am service.

January 16, a potluck lunch will be held after church at approximately 11:00 am. The theme will be "Celebrate Your Heritage". The idea behind the theme is for folks to bring a dish that represents their cultural origins. As always, there is no charge and anyone is welcome to join in on the meal at any time, with or without something to share. Important thing is for people inside and outside of the church to share good food and good fellowship.

Because of the New Year falling on Saturday (1/1), the Men's Monthly Breakfast will be held January 8, same time. 8:00 am. After this month, expect these breakfasts to continue the first Saturday of each month at 8:00 am. It is well known the men eat especially well during these times with lots of bacon and fun fellowship. A short devotion and conversation also make this a special time for men of all ages.

The Ladies Bible study will resume on Wednesday mornings, January 5, at 9:00 am after having a Christmas break. All ladies are welcome; yone does not have to be an attendee of WMBC to be welcomed. The same is true for the Ladies Sewing Group which takes place Tuesday mornings at 9:00 am. Stop by anytime to check out any relevant meetings.

If you do not have a church home, please consider stopping by at any time to see if WMBC fits your worship style. You can find a list of all WMBC activities on the calendar at the church's website: www.westermountainschurch.org. Also, feel free to call the church at 265-2557 to speak with Pastor Tom DuBois; he is open to answering your questions and concerns.

Submitted: Crystal Fitch

New Portland Churches

New Portland Community Church News

Happy New Year to all! We hope everyone is warm and comfortable and ready for a few weeks of quiet rest after the Holiday Season. The snow mid-December was lovely, but we can all do without the rain and icy weather.

There is not much in the news of the church. Currently, we are still meeting in person at the Joyce Pease Meeting Hall which was beautifully decorated for the holiday season. We are going to enjoy those decorations for a few weeks before we take them down. We may reassess our position on in-person services as the numbers of covid will likely rise after the Christmas holidays. We've been hoping the numbers would improve, but that doesn't seem to be happening.

We want to thank those who attended the Stocking and Gift Giving in December. We had a great time and we hope all those who attended enjoyed themselves and enjoyed the gifts they chose.

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and wish everyone a happy and healthy 2022.

List of those preaching for the month of January: January 2 – Stan Wheeler, January 9 – MaryEllen Royce, January 16 – MaryEllen Royce, January 23 – Doug Dunlap, January 30 – MaryEllen Royce

Online services are still available through Zoom and Facebook live at the links below. Please note that 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.

Happy New Year!





The New Portlander

Established July 1994

901 River Road
New Portland, Maine 04961

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NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR JANUARY 2022 DOUG KEHR PHOTO						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						New Year Day 1
2 NPCL Service 11:00 am 9:00 am ZOOM/Facebook WMBC Services 10:00 am	3 NPCL 8:30 am - noon Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	4 School Board Meeting 6:30 pm CCS Planning Board Meeting 6:30 pm	5 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm Recreation Committee Community Room 6:30 pm	6 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	7 NPCL 8:30 am - noon Library Board of Trustees NPCL 9:00 am	8 NPCL 8:30 am - noon
9 NPCL Service 11:00 am 9:00 am ZOOM/Facebook WMBC Services 10:00 am	10 NPCL 8:30 am - noon Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	11 NPCL 6:30 pm Water District Meeting	12 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	13 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm Deadline for New Portlander Submissions 4:00 pm	14 NPCL 8:30 am - noon	15 NPCL 8:30 am - noon
16 NPCL Service 11:00 am 9:00 am ZOOM/Facebook WMBC Services 10:00 am	17 Town Office Closed Observance Martin Luther King, Jr.	18 NPCL 8:30 am - noon	19 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	20 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	21 NPCL 8:30 am - noon	22 NPCL 8:30 am - noon
23/30 NPCL Service 11:00 am 9:00 am ZOOM/Facebook WMBC Services 10:00 am	24/31	25 NPCL 8:30 am - noon Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	26	27 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	28	29 NPCL 8:30 am - noon