



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

PUBLICATION VOLUME 28 • NUMBER 8 • FEBRUARY 1, 2022

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 8am - 12pm
2nd and 4th Wednesday 3pm - 6pm
Thursday 3pm - 6pm
Saturday 8am - 12pm
- **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

It has been brought to our attention that sometimes either in the minutes which are printed or other areas in the *New Portlander* there are typos or even errors in the information provided. Please note, all of the people who are involved in preparing the *New Portlander* for your reading pleasure are only human, and we do make mistakes; I'm the first to admit that. We do appreciate it when the public brings those errors to our attention, and we will continue to do our best to keep the public properly informed.

Please also note, we usually host a Zoom session for all of our Selectmen's Meetings for those who cannot physically attend the meetings. The link is always posted on the New Portland Town Office facebook page and usually posted on the town's website; however, there have been a couple of occasions when it did not get posted soon enough as there is roughly a 24 hour period before it appears after being posted on our end.

Thank you to all who contributed to the 2021 Giving Tree. We helped three families in New Portland have a better Christmas. And we also have some of those funds to rollover to this year.

I would like to publicly thank Mallory Stratton for doing such a great job in the office while I was out on medical leave. She has been a great addition to our office. And a huge thank you to those of you who wished me well while I was out, please know your kind words were very heartwarming to hear and read. We certainly have a great community of people here in New Portland and I treasure that.

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

Selectmen

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for December 7, 2021

Roster: Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Tina Poulin, Wayne Rundlett; Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager; Jianna Pinkham, Dillon Wellman, Annahlee Wellman, Tiffany Pinkham, Harold Gaines, Brian Rundlett, Kip Poulin, Garrett Oswald, James Reinhard

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 the minutes as written, Tina seconded and all were in favor.
3. Old Business: ARPA funds - Kip discussed with the Board a proposal to use some of the ARPA funds for a repeater for the Fire Department. There was a brief discussion regarding this. Raymond motioned to use \$12,982.10 for the repeater, pending approval from MMA as a qualifying use of ARPA funds. Tina seconded and all were in favor.
4. Items by the Public:
 1. Jianna Pinkham and Dillon Wellman presented a letter to the Board requesting to be on the Recreation Committee. All Board members were in favor and Raymond welcomed them both.
 2. David Veilleux discussed with the Board his concerns about New Portland not having any ordinances to govern marijuana use for businesses that might want to set up here in town. He provided some information from other towns and how they have enacted an ordinance to help govern these matters in their town. There was a brief discussion. Raymond stated to table the matter until they have more time to review this information. Stacie would find out more information regarding a possible moratorium for this matter.
 3. Garrett Oswald shared with the Board his disappointment that he was not listed in attendance at the October 5 meeting. He discussed with the Board better ways for the minutes to be transcribed. The Board and Town Manager will work together and try to keep minutes and attendance of meetings better.
 4. There was a discussion regarding using ARPA funds to put up new lights on the Wire Bridge. The Board shared that this is not an approved expenditure.
5. Department Heads:
 1. Kip discussed with the Board a partial payment for an invoice which was sent for a working accident scene that was quite time consuming.
6. Items by the Town Manager:
 - a. The Board reviewed and signed payroll, A/P warrants.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen:

Tina stated for future meetings if anyone from the public had a question or statement to address it to the Board and not anyone else.

Wayne motioned to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded and all were in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board at the December 20 meeting. smr

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for December 20, 2021

Roster: Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Tina Poulin, Wayne Rundlett; Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager; Tiffany Silva, Garrett Oswald, Gary Agren

1. Raymond called the meeting to order at 6:30 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:
 - a. There was a discussion regarding ARPA funding for FD repeater. Stacie would get more information from Fire Chief Kip Poulin to see about covid related calls, etc. Raymond stated the Board may want to hold a public meeting regarding expending ARPA funds for FD repeater in late January 2022. Actual date to be determined at a later meeting.
4. Items by the Public: None
5. Department Heads:
 - a. Gary Agren spoke to the Board regarding his proposed 2022 summer roads budget. He voiced his concern regarding necessary paving projects and funding for those projects. Gary updated the Board on work being done.
6. Items by the Town Manager:
 - a. The Board reviewed and signed payroll, A/P warrants.
 - b. The Board was given a preliminary draft of the 2022 budget. More information to come at the next meeting. Raymond shared with Tina the basics of the budgeting process.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen:
 - a. Stacie shared with the Board a concern regarding winter roads and traffic hazards and being able to contact winter snow plow contractor. Raymond stated that he would reach out to Brent Davenport regarding the matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen on the January 4th meeting. smr

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett



NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is February 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 January board meeting was held at CCS.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjustments to the Agenda: Two items were added to the agenda. The first concerned synchronous learning, and the second dealt with the possibility of Zooming board meetings, again.

Minutes: The minutes of the December 1 board meeting and the December 15 special board meeting were approved.

Superintendent's Report: 1.) Mr. Tracy updated the board on the OSHA vaccine mandate for staff. Starting when staff returns from February vacation, they will need to either show proof of vaccination or be tested weekly for COVID. RSU 74 will provide the tests. 2.) Support staff contract negotiations are ongoing. One meeting has been held, and the next will be January 13. 3.) CDC COVID guidelines have changed. Now only people who have tested positive will have to quarantine. As long as they are asymptomatic, positive individuals can return after five days. Close contacts will no longer be forced to quarantine, as long as they remain asymptomatic. These relaxed COVID procedures are contingent upon schools having a universal masking policy.

Appointments: Bonnie White - bus radio monitor, Candy Lebeau - bus radio monitor, John Tierney -CHS bowling coach.

Admin Reports: Most of the admin team chose not to add to the report that they had submitted to the board. Lorie Agren reported that there have been problems with pellet boilers and with the heat in the Industrial Arts building at CHS. Student board rep Trinity Slate said that at CHS the student body has been discussing how to improve student morale. One idea which has been discussed is having CHS upperclassmen mentor middle school students.

Committees: The board's negotiating team met with the support staff negotiating team on December 9. The Academic Committee met on December 15. The Envision Math Program was discussed. Data was analyzed which showed in person learning has been more successful than remote learning. The science curriculum and science textbooks were discussed. The mid year Academic Review is upcoming.

Public Participation: No one spoke.

Mask Mandate: Between September 1 and November 3, RSU 74 had 69 positive COVID cases, 551 close contacts, and 499 quarantined. After the board approved a mask mandate at the November board meeting: 27 positive COVID cases, 320 close contacts, 205 quarantined. A motion was made to extend the mask mandate for as long as the CDC Standard Operating Procedure remains the same. This failed by a vote of 9-4. A motion was made to extend the mask mandate through the March 2 board meeting. This motion carried 10-3.

Synchronous Learning: A motion was made "to direct all RSU #74 high school and middle school teachers to teach

synchronous classes for their quarantined students during their respective class periods. All instruction, lectures, discussions, and debates are to be conducted synchronously. In the event the class is to be engaged in an activity which cannot be replicated at home, the teacher will provide an alternate activity or lesson for the quarantined student to complete synchronously during the class period." The motion was approved.

Remote Board Meetings: A motion was made to have a remote option at board meetings, allowing board members to attend from home. The motion failed.

Executive Session: At about 7:00 pm the board entered executive session. The executive session lasted until about 7:55. When the executive session concluded and the public session resumed, no announcement was made regarding the discussion.

Old Business: No board members chose to bring up any old business.

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 7:59 pm.

The next school board meeting will be February 2.

Submitted: David Ela, President, Carrabec Educational Association

Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers

January 2022 Wire Bridge Sno-travelers Club Meeting
The meeting was called to order with eight members present. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Trail Master's Report: The trail master was not present, but it was reported both groomers have been out packing trails and clearing blowdowns. We still need more snow to cover up rocks and other obstacles in the trails. A group of members had been out and moved a section of trail on the County Road, off the Chick Road. One member reported a bridge on the Wire Bridge Trail needs to be put back up on the abutment and secured. A work crew will be assembled to do this.

Old Business: After some discussion about electronic payments, the motion was made, seconded, and accepted to go ahead and purchase a swipe machine and get it set up to be able to use this snowmobile season. The treasurer will meet with the bank representative and get the application filled out. The club would like to thank our member who has taken his time to set up this project for the club. The club still needs to purchase 35 five foot posts to put up the bridge number signs.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm. The next meeting will be Saturday, February 12, 2022 at the fire station meeting room, starting at 6:30 pm.

Submitted: Joyce Knowles

New Portland Community Library

Happy New Year! As we head into the “deep” winter, we hope you will visit the library often to find books, movies, and online services to bring enjoyment to your life. Thanks to an ARPA state grant we have several new books for your enjoyment; the grant was specifically for book purchases. We also have new movies and documentaries along with some wonderful large historical maps of Somerset and Franklin Counties on display. More good news, thanks to a new again volunteer, we will be adding six more hours per month. We will be adding the second and fourth Wednesday from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Our hours will be Tuesday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm; second and fourth Wednesday from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm; Thursday 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm and Saturday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Again, we thank you all for your amazing support during 2021 and your support for the library at this year’s town meeting would be greatly appreciated. Please contact us by calling 207-628-6561, e-mailing newportlandcl@gmail.com, or via Facebook. To avoid frustration, please call ahead during times of inclement weather should closing be deemed necessary for safety. Respectfully ...

Submitted: Becky Knowles Redlevske

a sewing project or a sewing machine, feel free to drop by to get motivation, inspiration and ideas. Machines are available if needed.

Do you know anyone who may need a helping hand this winter? WMBC has volunteers to help with small (non-professional) projects such as snow removal, carpentry, packing and moving, weatherization, heating concerns, etc. The folks who volunteer in the Service Ministry and the Deacons of WMBC want to help. Make your needs known by calling the church at 265-2557, email westernmountainbaptist@tds.net or go to “Contact Us” on the church’s website, westernmountainchurch.org, to submit your request directly to Pastor Tom DuBois. This is also a great place to ask for prayer.

Submitted: Crystal Fitch

New Portland Community Church News

We all seem to be working our way through winter quite nicely. Happy we’ve finally gotten some decent snow, but we could do without the sub-zero temperatures. It is winter though, and that’s what happens.

In church news, we had a wonderful Christmas Eve service at the church. MaryEllen Royce prepared a lovely worship service of lessons and carols. We met in the meeting hall, instead of the sanctuary, as we rightly guessed congregation numbers would be lower than usual. The hall was decorated with Christmas trees, candles, and a nativity set in greens. Chairs were arranged in groups to help maintain social distancing, and the congregation is always respectful of masking when necessary.

February is a quiet month. There will be a Session meeting on February 8 at 10:00 am pending word of our moderator’s availability. With any luck the roof of the schoolhouse will be finished by the end of the month. That will finish up the work on the outside of the schoolhouse and let us turn attentions to the inside. The building has been used by the MATE housing ministry for workgroup housing on a very limited basis due to its condition, and as storage for housing materials and historical society items. We hope to expand its use once it can be brought back to a more workable condition.

Sunday services are being held in-person at the New Portland Church. Currently, we are holding worship in the meeting house attached to the big church. It’s a cozy, warm space for a cozy, warm congregation. Please join us for coffee hour at 10:30 am, worship starts at 11:00 am. List of those preaching for the month of February: Feb 6 - Stan Wheeler, Feb 13 - Stan Wheeler, Feb 20 - MaryEllen Royce, Feb 27 - MaryEllen Royce.

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. Stay warm and be well ...

Submitted: Nan Berry

New Portland Churches

Western Mountain Baptist Church News

Services at the Western Mountains Baptist Church continue to meet every Sunday morning. Sunday School, for all ages, meets at 9:00 am. Age groups are broken up into individual classes; adults, seventh through twelfth graders, fourth through sixth graders and younger children. Each class uses the same (age-appropriate) curriculum called “The Gospel Project”. Everyone is studying the same topic which is great for communication among family members. All are welcome to attend Sunday School and stay (or not) for the 10:00 am church service. Children’s Church and nursery are available during Pastor Tom’s message or are welcome to stay with their adults during the service.

The Wednesday morning Ladies Bible Study has regrouped after a Christmas break. The new study is called “He’s Where the Joy Is”. Come check it out any Wednesday morning at 9:00 am. You do not have to be an attender of WMBC to be welcomed. Hot coffee and snacks are available.

Saturday, February 5 at 8:00 am is the date for this month’s Men’s Breakfast. In addition to a big hearty breakfast, there is fun fellowship and a short devotion or personal testimony. Men young and old are invited. Men also meet Monday nights at 6:30 pm for a Bible study.

The Ladies Sewing Class continues to meet Tuesday mornings 9:00 am through noon. There is no charge, and everyone gets to work on their own project at their own pace. If you do not have





The New Portlander

Established July 1994

901 River Road
New Portland, Maine 04961

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 NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2022 						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 NPCL Service 11:00 am 9:00 am ZOOM/Facebook WMBC Services 10:00 am	7 NPCL 8:30 am - noon Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	8 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm Water District Meeting 6:30 pm	9 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm Recreation Committee Community Room 6:30 pm	10 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm Library Board of Trustees NPCL 9:00 am Sno-Travelers Community Room 6:30 pm	11 NPCL 8:30 am - noon	12 NPCL 8:30 am - noon
13 NPCL Service 11:00 am 9:00 am ZOOM/Facebook WMBC Services 10:00 am	14 Valentine's Day	15 NPCL 8:30 am - noon	16 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	17 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	18 NPCL 8:30 am - noon	19 NPCL 8:30 am - noon
20 NPCL Service 11:00 am 9:00 am ZOOM/Facebook WMBC Services 10:00 am Deadline for New Portlander Submissions 4:00 pm	21 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	22 NPCL 8:30 am - noon	23 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	24 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	25 NPCL 8:30 am - noon	26 NPCL 8:30 am - noon
27 NPCL Service 11:00 am 9:00 am ZOOM/Facebook WMBC Services 10:00 am	28 Remember to License Your Dog(s)					