



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 30 • NUMBER 3 • SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

TOWN OFFICE INFORMATION

Phone: 628-4441 • Fax: 628-4440

Town Office Contact Information and Hours of Operation:

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9am - 5pm
Thursday 12pm - 6pm

Town Manager/CEO: Stacie Rundlett

Email newportlandtownmanager@gmail.com

Deputy Town Manager: Lori Alyea

Email townofnewportland@gmail.com

Office hours: Same as the Town office hours

Town Clerk: Jacob Pinkham / Deputy Town Clerk: Brittany Rundlett

Email newportlandtownclerk@gmail.com

Office hours: Wednesdays 12pm - 5pm

LPI: Leo Mayo - 566-7341

Assessor's Agent: Audra Swanson

Wednesday 10am - 2pm

Email newportlandassessor@gmail.com

Fire Department: Chief Kip Poulin

Animal Control Officer: Dillon Wellman - 207-405-1134

Town Manager

The Town Office will be CLOSED on Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day. Wednesday, September 13 the Town Office will be opening late at 1:00 pm.

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

Selectmen

Minutes for the June 6, 2023, Selectmen's Meeting

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Tina Poulin, Janet White; Town Manager - Stacie Rundlett, Brian Rundlett, Lori Alyea, James Reinhard, Dick and Leisa Burns, Kip Poulin, Buffi Philips, David Veilleux, Marilyn Gorman, Dallas Landry, Gabe Clark, Kristen Wallaker, Jacob Pinkham, Brittany Rundlett, Garrett Oswald

1. Raymond called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.
2. Raymond motioned to accept the minutes as written, it was seconded and all were in favor.
3. Old Business: None
4. Items by the Public - There was a discussion regarding road closures and research to be done.
5. Department Heads: Kip updated the Board on the truck repairs and tower arrangements scheduled to take place.
6. Items by the Town Manager: The Board reviewed and signed payroll warrants
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen: None

Adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm.

*These minutes were approved by the Board at the Jul 11 meeting.
smr*

Minutes for the July 11, 2023, Selectmen's Meeting

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Tina Poulin (absent), Janet White; Town Manager - Stacie Rundlett, Garrett Oswald, Lori Alyea, James Reinhard

1. Raymond called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

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
- **New Portland Community Library**
Tuesday 8am - 12pm
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

2. The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Janet motioned to accept the minutes as written, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.
3. Old Business: Janet White shared some information she had found regarding a road closure from over 20 years ago.
4. Items by the Public: There was a discussion on prospecting on the Town's property at the Wire Bridge. The Board was not in favor of seeing dredging being done at the Wire Bridge and stressed the importance of no panning to take place on or close to the actual beach area.
5. Department Heads:
6. Items by the Town Manager: The Board reviewed and signed payroll and A/P warrants.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen:
 - a. There was a discussion regarding options for recipient for Spirit of America Award. A member of the public made a suggestion and the Board thought it was a great suggestion.
 - b. There was a brief discussion on what amount of Surplus the Board may be considering to be used to help reduce the upcoming real estate taxes. No decision was made.
 - c. After a discussion regarding the upcoming meeting with D.O.T. and Lexington TWP residents, Janet asked Stacie to invite Wright Pinkham and others to attend the next Selectmen's Meeting scheduled for July 17.
 - d. There was a brief discussion regarding Gil's Road sign.
 - e. There was a brief discussion regarding a possible unsafe building that is only a few feet from Lemon Stream.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:120 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board at the July 17 meeting. Smr

Minutes for the July 17, 2023 Selectmen's Meeting

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Tina Poulin (absent), Janet White; Town Manager - Stacie Rundlett, Lori Alyea, Valerie Bossie.

1. Raymond called the meeting to order at 6:29 pm.
2. The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Janet motioned to approve the minutes as written, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.
3. Old Business: None

4. Items by the Public: Valerie Bossie, President of Gilman Pond Lake Association talked to the Board about her concerns and ideas on the Gilman Stream Dam and how it is going to affect the local residents. No decisions were made.
5. Department Heads: None
6. Items by the Town Manager: The Board reviewed and signed the payroll and A/P warrants.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen: There was only one (1) bid for the 2023-2024 Winter Sand. The Board did not open that bid and decided to extend the bids until August 21. Stacie will make sure that the information is shared on the website, and Raymond will look into potential contractors to make sure they were aware of our bid process. The board discussed possible amounts to take out of surplus to reduce taxes for 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board at the August 1 meeting. smr

Town Assessor

With the very recent adjournment of the Legislature comes the sunset of the Property Tax Stabilization Program (also known as LD 290). After only one year in the books, the program has ended, effected April 1, 2024. This is in response to concerns regarding inequity and reimbursement costs.

There will be no option for taxpayers to reapply at the town level, although the ending of this program has allowed for the expansion of other programs, including the Property Tax Fairness Credit and the Senior Property Tax Deferral Program. Information for these programs can be found on the Maine Revenue Services website.

If you have questions regarding the above offered programs, you can reach out to Maine Revenue Services at the following phone numbers and email addresses.

Taxpayer Contact Center: 624-9784 or taxpayerassist@maine.gov

Income Tax Division: 626-8475 or income.tax@maine.gov

Property Tax Division: 624-5600 or prop.tax@maine.gov

Thank you.

Submitted: Audra Swanson, Tax Assessor

NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is September 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 August board meeting was held at Carrabec Community School. The food included several healthy options. Needless to say, I avoided the food. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjustments to the Agenda: One agenda item was moved up in the agenda. Another agenda item was removed and will likely be revisited at a later date.

Superintendent: Mark Campbell was hired as superintendent for 2023-2024.

Minutes: The minutes of the June regular meeting and the June 15 special board meeting were approved.

Board Chair and Vice-Chair: Troy Dunphy and Kevin Sousa will continue in their roles as board chair and vice-chair.

Handbook Presentation: The board reviewed the school 2023-24 school handbooks. A board member asked Peter Campbell which high school staff members would teach a couple of classes, and he answered.

Superintendent Report: 1.) Mr. Campbell stated that bus routes for 2023-24 are not yet finalized, but he hopes they will be by opening day. The revised school attendance zone lines have added some hurdles to finalizing this process. 2.) On the subject of revised attendance zones, some families have appealed to the superintendent to stay at their current school. These requests have been reviewed on a case by case basis. Some requests will be granted, while others will not be, depending on each individual circumstance. 3.) CCS principal interviews will be held on August 10. A tentative process has a candidate meeting with the full admin team on August 14, followed by a special board meeting on August 16. 4.) Brenda Stevens and Laura Layman expressed disappointment that Jaime Ela had left the district. Mrs. Layman spoke about having board members be part of hiring committees in the future.

Appointments: Tamara McLean - Title One Ed Tech 3, Solon; Erik Carey - Athletic Director; Brian Twitchell - 504 Coordinator; Jamie Partridge - Behavior Coach; Kymberly Wright - Pre-k Ed Tech 2; Chad White - CHS Cross Country; Kelly Vicneire - Alternative Ed, Ed Tech 3; Courtney Rollins - Ed Tech 1, GS; Paige Partridge - Ed Tech 1, CCS

Resignation: Jaime Ela, CCS Principal

Mr Campbell wished Mrs. Ela well in her new position in MSAD 59.

Nominations: Jamie Partridge - Special Ed Teacher, GS; Monique Bess - Special Ed Teacher, CHS; Craig Campbell - 6th Grade, CCS; Lacey Frost - Social Worker. After much discussion, all were approved.

Admin Reports: Peter Campbell updated the board on the progress of creating the new Alternative Ed program.

Public Participation: No one spoke.

Maine School Management Conference: Troy Dunphy was selected as the delegate, and Kevin Sousa as the

alternate.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan for 2023-24: The plan was approved.

Teacher Eval Handbook: The plan was approved.

K-5 Into Reading and 6-8 Into Literature: The board approved the purchase of these ELA programs.

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 7:39 pm.

There is a special board meeting on Wednesday, August 16 at CCS. The CCS principal position is the only agenda item.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for September 6. It will be at the New Portland Fire Station.

Submitted: Dave Ela, Carrabec Teachers Association

New Portland Community Library

Hello. How can summer be over?! Are you feeling creative with the changing of the calendar? We received an email from John Clark, author, in conjunction with the Maine State Library and the Maine Crime Writers concerning the fall contest "Where Would You Put the Body?" The following directly quotes the email. Have some fun, however, I'm not telling my secrets! "It's Maine Crime Writers "Where Would You Put the Body?" contest - late summer/early fall edition. How do you enter? Send a photograph of your chosen spot to: WritingAboutCrime@gmail.com with "Where Would You Put the Body?" in the subject line. There will be prizes for first, second, and third place - books, of course, and other Maine goodies. You may enter no more than three photographs, each one entered separately. They must be of Maine places and you must identify the place in your submission. Photos must be the submitter's original work. Contest will run through the middle of October."

Wednesday, September 13, 2023, please mark your calendars and reach out to the library by phone, email, or Facebook to sign up for great FREE class options. Please register by Tuesday September 5 in order for us to schedule the first topic. Part of the registration process will be communicating what type of device you will be bringing to allow the maximum benefit from the class or reach out to reserve a computer. There are a number of options which will cover all age and technical levels. Available options are Cyber Security and Safety, i-Pad or Notebook product usage options, Apple product usage options, Windows product usage options, Cloud storage instruction and security options, Affordable Connectivity Program (how to obtain discounted equipment and services), and Telehealth services (how to prepare and communicate effectively with healthcare providers using Zoom).

Our Budget Booster Raffle is now underway with four great prizes. Tickets will be available at the library, from board members, and volunteers. Look for a copy of the ticket on our Facebook page. Tickets will also be available at the following fundraising events: September 16 & 17 we will have a booth at New Portland Fair. October. 7: Bake & Book

Sale at the Library and October 8 our Annual Wire Bridge Toll Bridge Fun-raiser. December. 2 our Annual Holiday Craft Fair. The raffle will be drawn during this event. One of our volunteers will be offering free gift wrapping services at this event. *NOTE* - Tables are available for your enterprise, please contact the library to reserve your space.

On two Thursdays, December. 7 and 14, there will be free gift wrapping service available at the library from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

The Library has an extremely low budget at just over \$20,000.00 for 2023. We are a non-municipal entity, the town generously allocated \$8,500.00 toward our budget at town meeting, which is most appreciated! This leaves our dedicated team of just four volunteers to raise the balance through fundraisers and donations. While we are well supported at our events, there are only so many bake sales, book sales, and events we can manage. The budget is allocated for books, DVD's, computer equipment & Wi-Fi, heat, electricity, insurance, and a modest salary for our wonderful library director. Our spring silent auction was our largest fundraiser to date which raised nearly \$1,100.00 thanks to generous donations of household goods, raffle items, and of course, players. Please realize we would have to fundraise this much every month to come close to our target, with four steady volunteers, this is simply not feasible at this time. *The library is a 501c(3) non-profit, making all of your donations tax deductible!* We hope you are willing to make a financial donation to the New Portland Community Library at this time. Checks may be mailed or dropped off during open hours.

We appreciate all the support we receive and work diligently to provide the best resources for your use and enjoyment. Thank you. Becky Knowles-Redlevske, Secretary becky.redlevske@gmail.com Wenda Spooner, President winkyusmc@msn.com Valencia Schubert, Treasurer dvschubert412@gmail.com Sheila Atwood, Library Director newportlandcl@gmail.com Beth Perera, Volunteer beth.perera@gmail.com

Submitted: Becky Knowles-Redlevske

Announcement

Save the Date: Kingfield Seniors will be meeting on Monday, September 11 due to the Labor Day weekend. After that, our next meeting is scheduled for October 2. We meet at the Western Mountains Baptist Church on Route 27 at noon. This is not a church sponsored event and EVERYONE IS WELCOME. For more information, please contact Jo Bessey-Holmes at 207 265 2785 or 207 779 7200

Submitted: Nanci Mahlmann

New Portland Churches

New Portland Church News / September at last; our students are heading back to school, our gardens (Whatever hasn't washed away with the rains this summer.) are ready for harvest, the leaves are starting to show a little color. Another season is almost passed.

Mission at the Eastward's housing ministry is starting to wrap up for the season, too. New Portland hosted two work groups at the church. It was great to see those (mostly) young people working in our neighborhoods and in the surrounding areas. MATE continues to grow as a mission and provides some much needed help to our communities. The engagement also helps those who wield the hammers and pound the nails. You may notice that the church has a new maple sapling along the line where the huge old ones were. This tree is a gift from the parents of a young man who has passed away. He was so positively affected by his mission trip to New Portland that his parents donated a tree in his memory. We will watch it grow and remember that all of us impact those around us whether we realize it or not. We should hope that what people take away from their time with us (even if it is only a brief interaction at the convenience store) makes their life better in some small way. Our mission as members of the human race.

If you are joining us for worship our ministers for the month of September are September 3 - Communion, Rev. Stan Wheeler; September 10, joint service in Fairbanks at 10:00 am - Rev Scott DeBlock. A picnic will follow after the Service in Farmington. There will be no service in New Portland. September 17 - Deborah Bujnocki; September 24 - Pastor MaryEllen Royce; October 1 - Communion, Rev. Stan Wheeler.

Please note that there is no service at the church on September 10. We have been invited to a joint service with Fairbanks Union Church in Farmington. A picnic will follow the service. The purpose of the day is to dedicate "The Shed" where furniture and other items can be stored to be given away or sold at the annual yard sales and to recognize the individuals who have helped make it a reality.

On all other Sundays in September, please join us for coffee hour at 10:30 am with worship following at 11:00 am. We will be enjoying the organ music and the beauty of the big church for another month before moving to the attached meeting house as the weather gets cooler. Respectfully...

Submitted: Nan Berry

Western Mountains Baptist Church / As summer winds down, wait? what? Evidently not at WMBC! Right after VBS we participated in the Kingfield Festival Days Celebration (7/15), Lots of sno-cones and popcorn were given out along with kids lined up for the bounce houses. Always a good time!

I would be remiss if I didn't tell everyone what a wonderful day the Dunphy family provided on July 23.

After church folks headed to the Kennebec River to go rafting, tubing, canoeing, and floating down the river with a barbecue afterwards. Pastor Tom then proceeded to baptize nine people who outwardly declared their love of Jesus Christ. Awesome!

Then on July 26 another cook-out with our Bridging the Gap friends/family. The weather was perfect (as well as the company) to enjoy burgers, hot dogs, salads and even ice cream. 55 people came and enjoyed themselves and yet another 46 meals were delivered to homes. GOD is so Good!!

Yearly, we are happy to offer a \$1000 scholarship to a student graduating from Mt. Abram or Carrabec High School and is going forward in his or her education. This year the scholarship board granted two scholarships. (We

are so blessed!) Congrats to Kaitlyn Junkins of New Portland who graduated from Carrabec High School. She will be attending Kennebec Valley Community College majoring in Childhood Education. Abigail Wilcox, a graduate of Mt Abram High School will be attending University of Maine in Farmington majoring in Education. Blessings on both of these young women on their future endeavors.

So as you can see, a lot is going on!! Please check out our website www.westernmountainschurch.org or go onto our facebook page. Or better yet, come visit us Sunday mornings. Services start at 10:00 am. During the service we have nursery, junior church and a family room is available if needed where the sermon can be viewed comfortably. Be Blessed and enjoy the rest of the summer...

Submitted: Nanci Mahlmann





The New Portlander

Established July 1994

901 River Road
New Portland, Maine 04961

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| NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2023 DOUG KERR PHOTO | | | | | | |
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| NPCC Service 11:00 am WM/B/C Service 10:00 am | Town Office Closed Labor Day | 5 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm NPCL 8:00 am - noon | 6 School Board Community Room 6:00 pm Planning Board 6:00 pm | 7 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm | 8 | 9 NPCL Board if Trustees 9:00 am NPCL 8:00 am - noon |
| 10 NPCC Service Fairbanks 10:00 am WM/B/C Service 10:00 am | 11 Kingfield Seniors noon WM/B | 12 Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm NPCL 8:00 am - noon | 13 Town Office Opens 1:00 pm Water District Community Room 6:00 pm NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm | 14 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm | 15 New Portland Lions Fair | 16 NPCL 8:00 am - noon New Portland Lions Fair |
| 17 NPCC Service 11:00 am WM/B/C Service 10:00 am New Portland Lions Fair | 18 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm | 19 NPCL 8:00 am - noon | 20 Deadline for New Portlander 4:00 pm | 21 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm | 22 | 23 NPCL 8:00 am - noon |
| 24 NPCC Service Quassac 7:30 am Departure WM/B/C Service 10:00 am | 25 | 26 Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm NPCL 8:00 am - noon | 27 | 28 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm | 29 | 30 NPCL 8:00 am - noon |