



NEW PORTLANDER

INFORMATION IS THE CURRENCY OF DEMOCRACY — THOMAS JEFFERSON

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

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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

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

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

The Town Officials would like to wish everyone
a safe and happy holiday season.

Town Manager

The Town Office will be closed on Monday, December 25 in observance of Christmas, as well as Monday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day... Did I just type that????

The Annual Christmas Giving Tree is up at the Town Office. We will be taking gifts until Wednesday, December 20. There will be gift tags hanging on the tree at the Town Office; these tags will have an item listed on it. If you wish to participate with this annual event, stop by and grab a tag to fill, or you can call Stacie or Lori at the Town Office. We are always trying to help or assist some of those in need during this time of year, and if you or someone you might know could use a little extra help, do not hesitate to contact us at the office.

If you would like to participate on the 2024 Budget Committee please contact the Town Manager at newportlandtownmanager@gmail.com or call the office and speak with the Town Manager. Any requests for funding for the 2024 year will need to be brought before the Board of Selectmen before December 28.

Nomination papers have been made available as of Tuesday, November 21. They are due back on Wednesday January 3, 2024. The following seats are available: Board of Selectmen - three year term, School Board - three year term.

Now that the winter season is here, we would like to remind everyone all complaints regarding road conditions should be called into the town office, where those complaints are logged and the Board of Selectmen and the snow plow contractor are notified. We also want to remind you that there is a state law (29A M.R.S.A. 2396) which prohibits the pushing of snow into the public way. This includes pushing snow across a public street.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: This is a huge safety issue, and we will report this to the proper authorities.

ATTENTION: Access to the Municipal Sand/Salt Shed is restricted to employees and contractors authorized to be there. We are prohibiting the general public from entering the Sand/Salt Shed. Winter sand is available for *New Portland residents' personal use ONLY*. Each residential dwelling is eligible for two five gallon buckets of sand per storm, at the small building just after the playground area. Please DO NOT try to access the public sand during a storm, prepare ahead of time or wait until the storm has passed to ensure that there is less traffic in the Sand/Salt Shed Public area. The Town of New Portland prohibits the taking of pure rock salt without approval from the Town Manager. The use of municipal sand for the sanding of private roads is prohibited. (The Town of New Portland reserves the right to prosecute offenders.)

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

Selectmen

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for October 16, 2023

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Tina Poulin, Janet White, Stacie Rundlett - Town Manager, Lori Alyea, Leisa and Richard Burns.

1. Raymond called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting, Tina motioned to accept the minutes as written, Janet seconded and all were in favor.
3. Old Business: Landfill inspection - Janet will reread the inspection report and get specifics to try and get an accurate quote to comply with the State's requirements.
4. Items by the Public: There was a brief discussion regarding the Vining mining being done on New Portland Hill Road.
5. Department Heads: There was a brief discussion regarding mapping; no decisions were made.
6. Items by the Town Manager: The Board reviewed and signed the payroll and A/P warrants.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen: a. The Board of Selectmen discussed the proposal presented to them to write a letter of support for Whitten Woods. It was a unanimous decision to not provide a letter of support at this time. None of the Board members were opposed to this proposed real estate transaction, but did not feel to participate at this time. b. The Board of Selectmen reviewed and signed the Fire Coverage Contract with Highland Plantation. c. Raymond motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6) (A) Personnel matters at 6:58 pm. Raymond motioned to enter back into the public meeting at 7:18 pm. No decisions were made. Raymond motioned to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the November 7 meeting. smr

RSU 74 / School Board

The November school board meeting was held this past Wednesday at the Solon School. I was quite pleased to find chex mix there, as that is always a favorite. The surprise food item of the evening was deviled eggs. I have been accused of gluttony at family gatherings when I ate six or seven I was somewhat self-conscious about appearing greedy at the board meeting, so I only ate one. That was a mistake because the deviled egg was tremendous. (I was told that Michelle Stevens had made them.) If I were to replay the event, I would eat several and not worry about appearing selfish.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Minutes: The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

Presentation: After the action items on the agenda, the admin team reviewed student data from their schools with the board members. (I did not stay for this.)

Superintendent Report: Mr. Campbell shared financial info with the board, and he also shared SCTC updates.

Appointments: Erik Carey - CHS boys' basketball; Eli Canales - CHS jv boys' basketball; Will Cote - CHS girls' basketball; Lisa Cowan - CHS bowling, Brooke Welch - CCS 7th and 8th grade girls' basketball.

Resignations: Pauline Langton - bus driver, effective December 22; Skye Kendrick - Ed Tech One, CCS

Nomination: Brian Shamaly - Maintenance

Admin Reports: 1.) The administrators submitted written reports. 2.) Robert Greene told the board that a gas bus is about \$4,000 more than a diesel bus. 3.) A board member applauded Tara Morin for restoring 6-8 recess at CCS. 4.) Peter Campbell informed the board CHS would soon have a new JMG advisor. He delivered the student report on behalf of Kayli Folco: Maurice Langlois was the CHS staff member of the month, and Trevor Donahue was Student of the Month. Samantha Taylor was the Staff Spotlight recipient for November. The JMG Trunk or Treat was rescheduled to November 2. The senior class is designing sweatshirts and looking for ways to raise money. The girls' soccer team had a successful season, advancing to the semi-finals. The boys' soccer team will face Greenville in the Class C South Final on Tuesday. Performing Arts students are preparing for their performance of *Just Another High School Musical*. The pep and jazz bands have been performing. The math team has twenty students. The team has enjoyed success so far this year, finishing second in its first meet and third in the second meet. Kobi Jennings and Desmond Robinson were the top scorers in those meets. (At the conclusion of the board meeting, Peter Campbell reported that the team had finished third in a meet that afternoon, with Desmond again the high scorer.)

Committees: Both the Policy and Restructure Committees met on October 18. 1.) Troy Dunphy reported the Restructure Committee saw no reason to discuss school closures for at least the next five years. 2.) The Superintendent Evaluation Committee met on November 1.

Public Participation: No one spoke.

Buses: The board authorized the superintendent to seek approval for two new school buses in the 24-25 budget.

Policies: The first reading of policies IKFA and JLCD were approved.

The next board meeting will be held on December 6 at Garret Schenck.

Submitted: Dave Ela, Carrabec Teachers Association

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

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 Redlevske

New Portland Churches

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Western Mountains Baptist Church: Our youth group had a really nice day of hiking on November 5. The weather was beautiful.

On Sunday, November 12, Adult/Teen Challenge joined us for fellowship and good eats! They gave some awesome testimonies. Afterwards, we celebrated our Annual Thanksgiving Feast.

On Saturday, November 18, we had a class in CPR/AED/First Aid training (American Heart Association) certifying five additional church members. Always a fun and educational time.

We are still rolling along here with several activities being planned for the month of December. We are currently collecting donations for the New Hope Women's Shelter in Solon as well as Christmas gifts for the Carrabec Community School and the Edgewood Nursing Home. Also planned is our annual cookie drive benefiting the Free Street Church located in Skowhegan. *Save the date!!* Our youth group is planning on having a New Year's Eve fireworks party.

Won't you join us for worship and fellowship? We are located on Route 27 in New Portland just west of Kingfield. All information, as well as sermons, are on our website www.westernmountainchurch.org or call Pastor Tom at 207 265 2557.

Submitted: Nanci Mahlmann

Kingfield Seniors Group

Thanksgiving has now come and gone. Onward to my favorite holiday, CHRISTMAS!!! I think, there is a little child in all of us! It is a time for family and friends to join and celebrate the holidays. We at the Kingfield Seniors want to remind everyone there is no need for anyone to be alone! We have our next meeting on December 4 as well as January 8. We are planning a holiday sing along and would love to have you join us! Remember that this is not a church sponsored event nor do you have to be a Kingfield senior, all are invited! For more information, please contact Jo Bessey-Holmes @207 779 7200 or just come!! We meet at the Western Mountains Baptist Church on Rte 27, New Portland (right before entering Kingfield). Hope to see you there!

Happy, healthy and BLESSED Holiday!!!

Submitted: Nanci Mahlmann

New Portland Church: The year draws to a close with special holidays and visits with family and friends. The church year begins with Advent, the liturgical season preceding the birth of Christ (Christmas!). It is a season of preparation. We will be decorating the church over the coming months and preparing for a few special services to end the year.

In October, New Portland hosted a joint SuperSunday worship service with Fairbanks Union Church. We thank everyone who participated and all who attended. It was great to see so many people enjoying worship together.

The Harvest Supper in November went really well. The turnout was excellent, and it was such a pleasure to see so many friends, old friends and new, enjoying a meal together. It's what community is all about. Thank you to all those who donated their time and talents to providing, preparing and serving supper.

There is a service of Care and Compassion on December 12 at 7:00 pm at Fairbanks Union Church in Farmington. This is a quiet, meditative service provided for people who have experienced loss or trauma in their lives and for whom the Christmas seasons festivities are sometimes difficult. The service is put together by the Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry and includes participants from a number of local area churches.

There will be a Christmas Eve service at the New Portland Community Church (14 Hancock Pond Road, for the uninitiated) at 5:00 pm on December 24. This is a service of lessons and carols to celebrate the birth of Christ. It is always a lovely, and familiar, holiday service. Coffee, cocoa, cookies and other treats will be served! Also, because Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, there will be no morning worship service on December 24.

December 31 is one of just a few fifth Sundays in a month. We will be joining Fairbanks Union Church in Farmington for a 10:00 am SuperSunday service. SuperSunday services feature congregation participation with stories, poems and songs supporting a central theme. The theme of this month's SuperSunday service has yet to be determined, but it will definitely be a fun service.

Lastly, we will be starting up Warming Wednesday in January. We really enjoyed getting people together over a bowl of stew and a deck of cards! We are considering a new name for the day, maybe Heartwarming Wednesday? Join us on January 3 from 11:30 am – 2:00 pm for soup, maybe a sandwich, and good conversation.

If you are joining us for worship our ministers for the month of November are: December 3 - Stan Wheeler, Communion Sunday; December 10- Phyllis Blackstone; December 12 at 7:00 pm Service of Care and Compassion, Fairbanks Union Church; December 17 - MaryEllen Royce; December 24, 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service. No 11:00 am worship service. December 31, 10:00 am Joint Service at Fairbanks Union Church in Farmington. No service in New Portland.

Please join us for coffee hour at 10:30 am with worship following at 11:00 am unless otherwise noted. Respectfully...

Submitted: Nan Berry



The New Portlander

Established July 1994

901 River Road
New Portland, Maine 04961

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
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New Portland, ME
Permit No. 1

POSTAL PATRON NEW PORTLAND MAINE 04961

SUNDAY		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1	2
							NPCL 8:00 am - noon
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NPCL Trustees 9:00 am NPCL 8:00 am - noon Wire Bridge Sno-Travellers 6:30 pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	NPCL 8:00 am - noon
NPCC Service 10:30 am WMBC Service 10:00 am	Kingfield Seniors Group	Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm NPCL 8:00 am - noon	School Board GS School 6:00 pm Planning Board 6:30 pm	NPCL 3:00 - 6:00	Hanukkah		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	NPCL 8:00 am - noon
NPCC Service 10:30 am WMBC Service 10:00 am	Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	NPCL 8:00 am - noon	Deadline for New Portlander 4:00 pm	NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	NPCL 8:00 am - noon
NPCC Service 5:00 pm WMBC Service 10:00 am	Christmas Town Office Closed	Kwanza Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm NPCL 8:00 am - noon		NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm			
31	New Year's Eve WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC 10:00 am, Fairbanks Union Church						

NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2023

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