



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 30 • NUMBER 8 • FEBRUARY 1, 2024

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

Notice: Public Hearing and the Annual Town Meeting

On February 19, 2024, a public hearing will be held at 6:30 pm. This will be held at the meeting room of the New Portland Fire Station.

The public hearing is for two ordinances. The first is a new noise ordinance the Selectmen are bringing forward. The second is an amendment to the Medical Marijuana Caregiver Retail Store and Registered Dispensary Licensing Ordinance, forwarded by citizen petition.

Please come and listen to the ordinances on February 19, so you can be informed at Annual Town Meeting on March 2, 2024 at 9:00 am. This is also held at the Fire Station Meeting Room.

Be connected to your town and attend these meetings. Thank you. Selectmen: Ray Poulin, Tina Poulin, Janet White

Submitted: Janet White, Selectman

Town Manager

Monday, February 19 the Town Office will not be open in observance of Washington's Birthday/Presidents Day.

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

Selectmen

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes - November 7, 2023

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Tina Poulin, Janet White;
Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett, Lori Alyea, Ron Nunes, Brian Rundlett, Shaun Talon, Lynne and David Cary, Tyler and Missy Maynard, Ryan McDoogie, Frank Burrany

1. Raymond called the meeting to order at 6:29 pm.
2. The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Tina motioned to accept the minutes as written, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.
3. Old Business:
4. Items by the Public: a.) There was a lengthy discussion regarding the newly enacted New Portland Medical Marijuana Caregiver Retail Store and Registered Dispensary Licensing Ordinance. The Board would contact the town's attorney to see how to move forward with either a waiver or an amendment to the

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
Wednesday and 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

ordinance. No other decisions were made. b.) There was a lengthy discussion regarding the grading of the roads and other work done during our summer months to the roads and the disappointment from some of the public. The Board heard the complaints and concerns and will discuss this matter in more detail with the Road Commissioner, Ronald Nunes.

5. Department Heads: Brian updated the Board on the application from Vining Mining LLC for a gravel pit and that the Planning Board approved their application.
6. Items by the Town Manager: a.) The Board reviewed and signed payroll, A/P warrants. b.) Stacie inquired with the Board how they would like to proceed with the mapping situation? The Board felt it was important to get the maps updated and doing it digitally as well. To plan for this expense for the 2024 budget, Stacie will have the assessor, Audra, get a quote on how much that will cost.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen: a.) There was a discussion regarding the plan for the old dump site on Middle Road. Janet presented to the other Board members a resident qualified to clean the site and an approximate price. The other Board members were in favor of this plan, and they asked Stacie to email DEP regarding the plan to keep them up to date on what we will be doing next spring. b.) There was a brief discussion regarding the Junkyard Ordinance violators. Raymond motioned to move forward with the maximum penalties allowed, Janet seconded and all were in favor. c.) Raymond motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 405(6) (A) Personnel Matters at 7:44 pm. Raymond motioned to enter back into a public session at 8:20 pm, no decisions were made.

Janet motioned to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

The Board of Selectmen approved these minutes at their November 20 meeting. Smr

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes - November 20, 2023

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Tina Poulin, Janet White; Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett, Lori Alyea, Ray Jordan, Tanya Pettiford

1. Raymond called the meeting to order at 6:28 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:
4. Items by the Public: There was a brief discussion regarding Junkyard violations at 48 River Road, with Raymond Jordan, property owner. Raymond Poulin motioned to drop the proposed fine down to \$250 and to have the property owner sign a letter noting the necessary upkeep of the property for the future. Janet seconded and all were in favor. Stacie will draft the letter and once it is approved all parties will sign the letter.
5. Department Heads:

6. Items by the Town Manager: a.) The Board reviewed and signed the payroll and A/P warrants.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen- The Board entered into executive session at 6:48 pm for personnel matters. At 7:17 pm the Board entered back into the public meeting. Janet motioned to contact the town's attorney to see if there were enough grounds to terminate the ACO, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.

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

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes - December 5, 2023

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Tina Poulin, Janet White; Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett, Lori Alyea, Kip Poulin, James Reinhard, Ernie Hilton, Chris Rivers

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: There was a brief discussion regarding the Ordinance Amendments. The Board discussed with the public that amendment suggestions to any of the ordinances should be brought before them to review and then signatures would be needed to be gathered to see if the general public was in favor of said changes, and then an article could be put on the annual town meeting warrant and a public meeting could be scheduled accordingly.
4. Items by the Public: Ernie Hilton, with a land conservancy called the Somerset Woods Trustees which was founded by Louise Coburn in 1927 and is the oldest land trust in the state, discussed in detail the benefits of having the Board's support with the Whitten Woods Project. After hearing this information, the Board members all agreed to issue a letter of support to this project. This in no way ties the town to this project other than the Board's opinion's on how this would be beneficial for our community.
5. Department Heads: Kip updated the Board about his year-to-date payroll, talks with Kingfield for a combined training, and that a gas meter had failed. He will purchase a new one if his budget allows. Stacie will send figures to him about his budget.
6. Items by the Town Manager: a.) The Board reviewed and signed payroll and A/P warrants.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen: Raymond shared that there is logging being done again on Millay Hill Road, and he had notified Ron to keep an eye on the conditions of the road while this was taking place.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board at the January 2, 2024 meeting. Smr

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.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes - January 2, 2024

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Tina Poulin, Janet White;
Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett, Lori Alyea, Kip Poulin, Brian Rundlett, Ron Nunes, Scott Oliver, Chris Rivers, David Cary

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: a.) The Board discussed with Chris Rivers how the ordinance amendments to the Caregiver Medical Marijuana Ordinance have been received, and Janet offered her suggestions on how it should be worded. The Board will send off the proposed changes to the town's attorney and then provide Chris with guidance to move forward to get an article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to amend said ordinance. b.) The Board discussed the closing of the Tannery Bridge. There was some conversation regarding this bridge being a part of the snowmobile trail and after the discussion the Board asked Stacie to reach out to the Department of Transportation's Bridge division to find out if there is a way to continue having this bridge be a part of the trail and keep it safe. c.) There was a brief discussion regarding the junkyard violations and penalties. Janet would contact one of the parties to see what is holding up getting the paperwork back to the town regarding the penalty. Stacie would draft a new letter to the other party regarding the final penalty and how to proceed with this matter, and also touch base with the attorney regarding these proceedings. d.) Janet also provided a copy of a draft noise ordinance for the other board members to review and discuss at the next meeting.
4. Items by the Public: There was some discussion regarding a small washout on Chick Road. Ron Nunes will address the issue as soon as possible. There was also some discussion regarding another washout on Deer Farm Road and some discussion about the turn around there, and Ron would see to those matters first thing as well.
5. Department Heads: Kip discussed with the Board that the department will be having some joint training sessions with Kingfield once a month. He briefed the Board on the compressor and tower status.
6. Items by the Town Manager: a.) Review and sign payroll and A/P warrants. b.) The Board reviewed and signed a quit claim deed for paid taxes on a property.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen: a.) The Board discussed the matter of the Animal Control Officer position. And because the current ACO has not managed to complete his certification by a deadline given to him, they will be rescinding his appointment term which would have gone until April of 2024. The Board asked Stacie to post the ACO position in hopes to get a new applicant. They also asked Stacie to see if any ACO from a surrounding town would cover until we are able to fill this position. b.) The Board briefly viewed the budget spreadsheets/requests for funds. They will take them home and they will discuss things in more detail at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the January 15 meeting. smr

Citizens Corner

Okay, Okay, Okay, Enough.

I have lived in this beautiful town of New Portland by choice for over thirty six years. Of that time when I finish this term as selectman, I will have been a selectman half of that time. I have always been proud to live here, but there is now a problem.

What happened to kindness? We, who work for the town are people with feelings. We all work hard for this town, doing our best. If that doesn't satisfy you, then come speak to us at a meeting (not at gossip central wherever that is today). Come to a meeting with your issue, and we will listen and try to find a solution. But if you come to speak to us, come with no hostility and no mean tone in your voice.

Remember most of the people who work for this town are your neighbors, we live here too.

Let's please all try to be nicer to each other. I look forward to seeing you at the annual Town Meeting on March 2, but let's all be respectful of each other. I love this area and my beautiful town of New Portland. Thank you for your time.

Submitted: Janet White

RSU 74 / Superintendent

January 19, 2024

To: Residents of New Portland

From: Mark Campbell, RSU #74 Superintendent of Schools

Re: Work done in the last month by RSU #74 School Board

With the holiday festivities in the past month, Board activities have slowed down. The upcoming months will see the work for the Finance Sub-Committee pick up as we prepare the budget for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Library Technology sub-committee received updates from the District Librarian and Technology Director on Wednesday, January 3. Besides providing updates on the work done by Librarian Katie Hall and the K-5 Library Assistant, Shirley Mellows, Mrs. Hall presented her budget plans for the 2024-2025 school year. A discussion ensued where members of the committee learned that the library at the Carrabec Community School is not open five days a week and asked Mrs. Hall to come back with a cost analysis for full coverage at CCS. Technology Director, Scott Hall presented the work that has been done by members of the technology team including prepping, issuing, and maintaining new technology devices for K-5. Mr. Hall reviewed his proposed 2024-2025 budget. As well, Mr. Hall reviewed the professional development opportunities organized out of his office for instructional staff on using technology to engage students with lessons that incorporate technology. This committee will meet again on February 7 to review Mrs. Hall's findings on maintaining five-day a week coverage for the CCS library.

The Policy Sub-committee met on Wednesday, January 17. The committee continued their review of policies which have been in place for more than five years; the limit set by our own district policy. This month the work focused on Section A: Foundations and Basic Commitments. Of the five policies reviewed, the full board will be asked to modify only Policy ADC on tobacco use and possession that assures the district remains in sync with State Statutes and current technological means to deliver

nicotine. The other four will be reviewed by the Board with the intent of leaving as currently written.

A reminder that the RSU #74 Board of Directors meets the first Wednesday of each month. Our meetings will be held at the Carrabec Community School for the next few months. As always, your continued support of our schools and offerings are greatly appreciated.

RSU 74 / School Board

The January 4 School Board Meeting was held at Carrabec Community School. Mrs. Morin informed the board the place-settings and candy at the board table had been provided by the CCS kindergarten and second grade students.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjustments to the Agenda: There were none.

Minutes: The minutes of the December 6 board meeting were approved.

Presentation: There was no presentation.

Superintendent Report: Mr. Campbell added a bit to his previously submitted written report. 1.) The DOE has given RSU 74 a waiver for October 26; the day the district did not go to school due to the Lewiston shootings. Therefore, the missed school day will not need to be made up in June. 2.) Because of the large number of storm days which have been used so far, Mr. Campbell is hopeful that if there are future days where students do not go to school due to bad weather, they will have remote learning days. He envisions k-2 students will receive work packets to complete at home. For students in grades 3-12, there may be a blend of packets and synchronous learning. Training will be offered for staff to give reminders on how to effectively use Google Meet for instruction. A remote learning handbook was assembled in 2021-2022, and it will be updated for '23-'24. Based on weather forecasts, it is in the realm of possibility that January 10 could be a remote learning day. 3.) During the long power outage the week of December 18, there were some issues with sprinkler systems malfunctioning and pipes freezing. 4.) The Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Policy Committee will meet on January 17. Prior to the February 6 board meeting, the Library/Technology Committee will meet.

A board member asked about the chances of receiving a waiver from the state so that the days in December would not need to be made up in June. Mr. Campbell was not certain if the DOE would issue waivers for the weather-related days off. He said he was hesitant to eliminate days from the calendar, as there are students who are behind in reading in math, and he doesn't necessarily want to reduce student learning opportunities. He mentioned he hopes the board will fund the Reading and Math Interventionists in the local budget in the years to come.

Resignation; Rebecca Cocker: ed tech, CCS

Board member Dallas Landry expressed concern about staff shortages, and suggested if we are to attract and keep staff, we may need to increase wages.

Admin Reports: None of the administrators added to their written reports. The superintendent said the district is in dire need of more personnel to support IEPs.

There was no student report.

Committee Reports: 1.) The Superintendent Eval Committee met on December 6. 2.) The Policy Committee met on December 13, as did the Academic Committee. The Academic Committee discussed the Language Arts program and new Performing Arts courses.

Troy Dunphy, Chairman, attended SCTC Advisory Committee

events in December. He spoke highly of SCTC and the opportunities for students.

Public Participation: No one spoke.

Policies - Second Reading: The board approved the second reading of policy EBCA (Comprehensive Health and Safety Emergency and Management Plan). It also approved the second reading of policy EBCB (Emergency Evacuation Drills). Another Policy: The first reading of policy CBI was approved. Yet Another Policy: The first reading of policy JKAA was approved. A Procedure: The board approved the first reading of the procedure JKAA-R. One More Procedure: The first reading of procedure JICK-R was approved.

Adjusting the 23-24 School Calendar: After storm days on December 4, 19, 20, 21, and 22 - the last student day was set to now be on Monday, June 17 (if we use no more storm days). For that reason the board approved the following: The previously scheduled January 22 workshop day will now become a student day. The previously scheduled March 15 will now become a student day. It will be an Early Dismissal Day as December 22 was on the calendar. With these two changes, the last student day becomes Thursday, June 13 (if we use no more storm days). In the event that the use of remote days isn't always possible going forward, and traditional storm days must be used, the board gave the superintendent flexibility. For example, he could consider adding an hour to five consecutive school days in March. Five straight days with one extra hour would be enough to recoup one storm day. There are two factors in the desire to wrap up the student year by the end of the week of June 10. First, CHS graduation is set for June 7. Graduation cannot be more than five school days away from the last day of school. Also, now that Juneteenth (June 19) is a holiday, if school is in session at that time, support staff receive holiday pay. As we have traditionally been done with school by that date, that holiday pay has not been budgeted.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Submitted: Dave Ela, Carrabec Teachers Association

Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers

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

TRAIL MASTER: 1.) The trail master wanted to thank everyone who has been helping replace bridges and working on getting the trails ready. He especially wanted to thank two members for the use of their equipment. 2.) The main discussion concentrated on the closure, due to structural issues, of Tannery Bridge in the West Village. Many options were discussed. One member will be attending the next selectmen meeting with hopes of getting some answers on questions the club has concerning the bridge. He will report back to the club at the next meeting. 3.) The Bombardier groomer is all ready to go and the Tucker groomer will be ready as soon as the springs arrive and are installed. 4.) Trails on the east side of the river have been broken out but more snow is needed.

NEW BUSINESS: 1.) It was reported that the club has 69 members. Most people have been using the new Club website to join or renew.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm. Our February meeting will be Saturday, February 10 at the firehouse meeting room, starting at 6:30 pm. Please be careful on the trails!

Submitted: Joyce Knowles

New Portland Community Library

Hoping all is happy and healthy for you in our new year.

First and foremost, thank you everyone who supported our library in 2023. We are so grateful for your support and donations. Please note we are now open each Tuesday and Saturday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, each Wednesday and Thursday afternoon 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. We hope to see you soon, if you haven't meet our new volunteers, please come in and say hello, they are all wonderful!

Please note during the stormy weather when the roads are bad or school has been cancelled, please check Facebook or call 628-6561 to confirm we are open.

Secondly, we would like to request your support at the annual town meeting the first Saturday in March. We have placed a warrant with the town to request funds to keep the doors open. We could really use your support with that endeavor.

We would also like to take a moment to express our sympathy and loss, as we recently learned of one of our long time volunteer's passing. Ron Sarnier, who lived in New Portland with his wife Joan, was a professional photographer, faithful man, and gracious volunteer. May he and his wife rest easy.

Wishing you a warm and healthy February, please be sure to browse for books, puzzles, and movies to pass the snowy days. We have the puzzle corner, feel free to take one or leave one. We are loving Sheila's Facebook posts of local history "Bits", she posts regularly, check them out! If you are concerned about being able to return books timely, please keep in mind we have a room of books with a variety of authors that are for sale by donation. It's a great way to expand your own library.

Thank you. Becky Knowles-Redlevske, Secretary becky.redlevske@gmail.com Wenda Spooner, President winkusmc@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

Kingfield Seniors Group

Well, the start of the year has proved to be snowy and cold!! Why not join us for some friendship and food? On our last meeting, we had the pleasure of having Jan Royal as our guest speaker. She did a fabulous job of demonstrating the process of making stained glass. (She even gave away a door prize). So much fun!

Our next meeting will be 12:00 pm on Monday, February 5 at the Western Mountains Baptist Church. Our guest speaker will be me!! I will be doing a first aid demonstration though I will want others to join on the skills for everyone's education.

As always, this is not a church sponsored event and all are welcome to attend (not just Kingfield seniors). Should the weather not cooperate with us, and we have to reschedule, I will post in the Daily Bulldog. For further information or if you have any questions, please contact Jo Bessey-Holmes at 207 779-7200. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Submitted: Nanci Mahlmann

New Portland Churches

New Portland Church: February already. Happy Valentine's Day to everyone. Make someone in your life feel extra special on February 14 and every day! February 14 is Ash Wednesday. There will be a service at 5:00 pm led by Pastor MaryEllen Royce.

Our Wednesday Luncheon Socials continue through the winter months. This is an opportunity to share some time and a meal with friends; play some cards, do a puzzle, enjoy a board game...wherever the mood takes you. Join us on the first Wednesday of the month, February 7 from 11:30 am - 2:00 pm for soup or stew, maybe a sandwich, and good conversation.

If you are joining us for worship our ministers for the month of February are February 4, Rev. Stan Wheeler, Communion Service; February 11, Pastor MaryEllen Royce; February 14, 5:00 pm Pastor MaryEllen Royce, Ash Wednesday Service; February 18, Pastor Debby Bliss Bujnocki; February 25, Pastor Louise McCleery. Please join us for coffee hour at 10:30 am with worship following at 11:00 am unless otherwise noted. Respectfully...

Submitted: Nan Berry

Western Mountains Baptist Church: It has been a snowy and cold start for the new year. And as usual, we at Western Mountains Baptist Church are busy planning future events. The kids had a wonderful time celebrating New Year's Eve with a party and fireworks. Everyone had a good time.

We are preparing for our Annual Cabin Fever Reliever in February which will take place on February 17 from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm for the kiddos up to 12 years old. We will have a bounce house, face painting and more!!! So save the date. We are also planning for our other annual event, "Grill on the Hill" in March. Date has yet to be determined. It will be posted on our website as well as the Daily Bulldog.

This time of year can be a little depressing for some, so please feel free to submit your prayer requests online or call the church office. We have a few resources that are available such as our CD ministry and Right Now Media. If you wish to have a CD mailed to you (or you can pick it up) just call or go online.

Our website has a lot to offer. You can watch sermons and under Media, you can access Right Now Media which is an awesome source of books, study guides etc. This is FREE!!! Don't forget our Bridging the Gap is still available for all who would like a home cooked meal delivered to their door (once a month).

We would really love to connect with our neighbors, so won't you come and join us for fellowship and worship? Sunday services start at 10:00 am. We are located on Route 27 right before you enter Kingfield. If you want more information or would like to speak with someone, please call Pastor Tom 207 265-2557 or go online: www.westernmountainschurch.org

Submitted: Nanci Mahlmann

