



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 9 • MARCH 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: Vacant

Assessor's Agent: Audra Swanson

Wednesday 10am - 2pm
Email newportlandassessor@gmail.com

Fire Department: Chief Kip Poulin

Interim Animal Control Officer: Robin Wilkey - 628-4228

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

Town Manager

The 2023 Annual Town Reports are available at the Town Office and at the New Portland Post Office. You will also find it online on the town's website.

The Annual Town Municipal Voting is Friday, March 1 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm in the Community Room at the fire station.

The Annual Town Meeting will be on Saturday, March 2 starting at 9:00 am.

The Town Office will be closed on Tuesday, March 5 so all hands can be on deck for voting purposes in the Community Room from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm.

The Town of New Portland is currently seeking applications for the following positions: Animal Control Officer, Code Enforcement Officer, Local Plumbing Inspector. These are all part time positions. Animal Control Officer and Code Enforcement Officer are a stipend position which also receives mileage reimbursement. The Local Plumbing Inspector receives a portion of the fees which are charged for the permits, per the State of Maine laws. If you are interested in any of these positions please contact Stacie or Lori at the Town Office.

During the month of March the Town Office will be taking donations for the Franklin County Animal Shelter. Possible items to donate are bleach, paper towels, clumping cat litter, Purina Cat Chow High Protein dry cat food, IAMS Healthy Kitten dry cat food, grain free wet cat food, Purina Pro Plan Sensitive Skin and Stomach dog food, IAMS Minichunks adult dry dog food. And Franklin County Animal Shelter has an Amazon wish list at <http://a.co/f2k5bky>. So if you are able to donate, it would be very much appreciated.

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

Selectmen

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for January 15, 2024

Roster/Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Tina Poulin, Janet White; Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett, Lori Alyea, Brian Rundlett, Garrett Oswald

1. Raymond called the meeting to order at 6:31 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: The ACO job description was discussed and once a couple of typos were corrected the board was in agreement to post the new job description. There was a discussion regarding pay for the interim ACO. Raymond motioned to pay the interim ACO the same amount she is being paid in Embden per hour and mileage. Tina seconded and all were in favor. The Noise Ordinance was discussed and all were in agreement to change the time to 10:00 pm or to obtain a permit to extend an event until midnight. This would now go to the lawyer's office for review.
4. Items by the Public: None
5. Department Heads None
6. Items by the Town Manager: a. The Board reviewed and sign payroll warrants.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen:
 - a. The Board reviewed and signed the General Assistance 2023-2024 Ordinance.
 - b. The Board reviewed the 2024 Budget spreadsheets/requests for funds.
 - c. Janet discussed she would attend a meeting at the county level for EMA

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board at the February 6 meeting. smr

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for February 5, 2024

Roster/Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Tina Poulin, Janet White; Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett, Lori Alyea, Brian Rundlett, Kip Poulin, James Reinhard, Liz Caruso, Susan Hathaway

1. Raymond called the meeting to order at 6:28 pm.
2. The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Raymond motioned to accept them as written, Janet seconded and all were in favor.
3. Old Business: There was a brief discussion regarding the petition for getting the amended medical marijuana caregiver retail store and dispensary licensing ordinance on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. No decisions were made.
4. Items by the Public: Liz Caruso and Susan Hathaway talked to the Board about a program offered through the Somerset Economic Development Corporation to assist residents with digital programs and helpful resources which are available in Somerset County. They are already working with the New Portland Community Library and offering workshops and provide information to the Board. Janet said she would have the editor of the *New Portlander* put something in the newsletter to notify residents of the programs.
5. Department Heads: Kip updated the Board on the repeater. It was due to be active around the February 20.
6. Items by the Town Manager: a. The Board reviewed and signed the payroll and A/C warrants.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen:
 - a. The Board reviewed and signed County Contract for fire coverage.
 - b. The Board reviewed and signed Land Purchase Agreement with Randy Grover, Jr.
 - c. The Board reviewed the list of 2021 tax acquired properties no decisions were made.
 - d. The Board discussed the discontinuance of the Tannery Bridge and the proposal to also discontinue 50 feet on both sides of the bridge. No decisions were made.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board at the February 19. meeting. smr

NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is March 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 February school board meeting was held at CCS. It was a lengthy event, lasting nearly four hours. The food consisted of brownies and chocolate chip cookies. The brownies and cookies were outstanding.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjustments to the agenda: The wording of agenda items 17 and 18 changed "administrative" to "non-bargaining".

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 3, 2023. The minutes of the January board meeting were approved.

Presentation: RKO audit firm – presentation on the 2023 finances. Marcus Pratt from RKO spoke about the RSU 74 audit. He thanked Tammy Connors and Carla Franzose for making the process go smoothly. (The financial talk may have gone over my head.) However, I did get the impression the auditor felt very positive.

Superintendent Report: 1.) Mr. Campbell reminded board members the Finance and Policy Committees will meet on February 21. 2.) He said the budget process has begun, and the admin team has met to discuss budget priorities. 3.) Following the resignation of Robert Greene, the superintendent and Nicki Shamaly will be handling the job duties of the director of operations until a replacement is found. Mr. Campbell will be meeting with all employees who have been supervised by Mr. Greene, and he will be getting their feedback on how best to support them.

Appointment: Shannon Richards – Long-Term Sub 5th Grade - CCS

Resignations: Robert Greene – Director of Operations, John Tierney – Alternative Ed – Teacher

Admin Reports: Only Peter Campbell added to his written report. The CHS girls' basketball team will host a prelim game against Searsport on Tuesday, February 13. The CHS boys' basketball team will play Waynflete at the Augusta Civic Center on February 19. (The AD was absent from the meeting because he was scouting the Waynflete basketball team.)

Student Report: There was no student report.

Committees: The Policy Committee met on January 17, and Buildings/Grounds met on January 24.

Public: The public participation portion of the evening lasted nearly an hour. I appear to have five pages of notes regarding the comments. (As I lack the ambition to type that much, I will instead summarize to the best of my ability.) For roughly ten years, CHS students on the Math Team have been given the opportunity to use a portion of any points they score at math meet as bonus points on math assignments (tests, I believe). Peter

Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers

Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers Monthly Minutes: The meeting was called to order with ten members present. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

TRAIL MASTER: The trail master thanked those who had been out brushing the trails. Through the efforts of individuals and a work crew, who had been out with the drag mounted brush cutter, the never ending brush which overhangs the trails is much improved. It was also reported the Disaster Relief Grant money has been received and will be used to cover club expenses for work done.

OLD BUSINESS: A club member had talked to the town manager and the club will need to prepare a plan to present to the selectmen about our plan to fix Tannery Bridge in the West Village, so the club can use it. Discussion followed about researching possible grants that would help with the expense. Plans are in the very early stages with hopes of possibly having the bridge open for snowmobiles within a couple of years.

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made, seconded, and accepted to pay a fee to be listed in the Maine's Northwestern Mountains Visitor's Guide. A club member asked if the club would be interested in putting our trail map on our website and having it be downloadable to users. A question was asked if it was possible to make the map only downloadable to members of the club. Our tech person will be conferred with. A discussion was held about the condition of ITS-84 in some bumpy sections and options that are possible to help improve these sections. Two members are going to ride the sections and look for possible solutions.

The membership chairperson reported we now have 103 members. Thank you all, who have joined our club and for your support.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm. Our next meeting will be March 9, starting at 6:30 pm, at the fire station meeting room.

Submitted: Joyce Knowles

Campbell has stated it is his intention to end this practice immediately. He expressed a concern the practice is not equitable, as not all students are able to be on the math team, as they may have after-school jobs or family commitments. He believes a grade in a class should be based on achievement in the class itself, not extra-curricular work. Many students and parents advocated

in favor of keeping the bonus points. The bonus points serve as a relatively small reward for students who go beyond simply doing only what is required of them. Also, for students who may not be sure whether or not to join the math team, the bonus points may serve as an incentive to join. The board did not take formal action on the concerns, but the sentiment was Mr. Campbell should let the bonus point practice continue for the remainder of 2023-24. Prior to 2024-25, he was encouraged to meet with math team students and math teachers, and see if they could all work together to devise a system that everyone might find acceptable.

2024-25 School Calendar: Approved

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the second readings of policy CBI – Supervision & Evaluation of the Superintendent, JKAA – Use of Physical Restraint & Seclusions, JKAA-R – Procedures on Physical Restraint & Seclusion, and JICK-R – Bullying - Administrative Procedure. Approved.

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the first reading of policy ADA – School District Goals and Objectives. Approved.

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the first reading of policy ADC – Tobacco-Free Schools: Use and Possession of Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Devices. Approved.

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the first reading of policy ACAD – Hazing. Approved.

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the first reading of policy AD – Educational Philosophy/ Mission. Approved.

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the first reading of policy ADAA – School System Commitment to Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior. Approved.

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the first reading of policy ADF – School District Commitment to Learning Results. Approved

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the removal of procedure ADC-R – Tobacco Use and Possession Administrative Procedure. Approved.

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the overnight COVID Recovery trip to Boston on April 11 and 12. This agenda item generated much debate between board members. Eighth grade students have the opportunity to go to Boston. However, due to COVID, there are some grade levels currently at CHS that were not able to go. Mr. Campbell plans to take students to Boston in April. Some of the criteria include students must not be chronically absent from school, and they must be passing their classes. Not all board members were comfortable with these restrictions. The board voted 9-4 to approve the trip. However, the superintendent was encouraged to speak with

Drummond Woodsum (the district's law firm) to get their view on whether the restrictions on attending the trip were consistent with recent changes to state law.

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will vote not to take part in the After School Nutrition Program (CACFP). As has been the practice for as long as I can remember, the board voted against this.

To see if the RSU 74 Board of Directors will enter into executive session pursuant to MRS. Title 1, Chapter 13, Subchapter 1, Subsection 405.6D to discuss administrative contracts. At the start of the meeting, the word "administrative" was switched to "non bargaining". The executive session lasted for more than ninety minutes. (Exercise is not generally a major priority in my life, but I believe, I did enough pacing during this time to burn off the calories of the brownies and cookies I consumed during the meeting.)

To see if the RSU 74 Board of Directors will approve the administrative contracts including 2024-2025 salary and term of contract. The board voted to accept the salaries/contract lengths for all *non-bargaining* staff as discussed in the executive session. (I interpreted this to mean that employees not covered by either the teacher or support staff contracts - superintendent, admin, secretaries, tech people, etc - have been re-hired for 24-25, or perhaps beyond. An exception to this would be any individual in the aforementioned categories who has previously indicated to the superintendent/board an intent to resign at the conclusion of 23-24.)

Adjournment: Though there were moments when I questioned whether the meeting would ever end, it did.

Submitted: Dave Ela, Carrabec Teachers Association

Kingfield Seniors Group

Kingfield Seniors will be having their monthly meeting on March 4 at the Western Mountains Baptist Church at 12:00 pm. The church is located on Route 27 right before you enter Kingfield. This is not a church sponsored event, and all are welcome to attend.

Last month, I reviewed the basics of handling emergency situations using various first aid techniques. This month's meeting I will be reviewing CPR and AED procedures as well as how to handle a choking event. *Everyone should know the basics on how to save a life!!*

If you have any questions or would like more information on our group, please feel free to contact Jo Bessey-Holmes at 207 779-7200. Hope to see you there!

Submitted: Nanci Mahlmann

New Portland Community Library

First, thank you to all who have given time, money, and donations to the library. Mark your calendars - Sunday, April 7, we are hosting an appreciation tea for everyone who has donated to the library. The time for this tea is 1:00 - 3:00 pm; more details in next month's newsletter.

We have two events in March. On March 16, Saturday, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm we are hosting our bake/book/dvd sale at the library. Lots of goodies to eat, books and movies to watch. Also, usually the board brings lunch to be purchased. Everything is sold for a donation! And on March 20, *Cutting the Cord* - getting tv and phone services over the internet, 4:00 - 5:00 pm at the library. What does it mean to *Cut the Cord*? It's about canceling cable or satellite services and being able to watch television shows online, as well as options that would allow you to get rid of your landline. Please pre-register at the library by calling 628-6561.

We are also hosting free Reiki classes on the following three dates: March 2, March 9, March 30. These classes are free and run from 9:00 - 11:45 am. Reiki is a healing art which uses our personal energy centers (chakras); Reiki started in Japan with Dr. Usui. We are all energetic beings and are affected by external energies and influences. Balance and having adequate energy flow aides in healing, strengthening our immune system and general health balance. Reiki has also been recognized as beneficial in pain management and relaxation. This peaceful, calming 15 minute session will leave you refreshed and with more clarity. You do not need any prior experience with reiki to have a session. Michelle Abbott, Reiki Master Level 3, is looking forward to seeing you. Walk-ins are welcome!

We are collecting donations for the May silent auction at the Happy Horseshoe Campground. When you are cleaning house this spring, think of us. What do you have that we could sell at the auction? Please, no clothes.

Free at the library: jigsaw puzzles - nice assortment. Take one, leave one! Good for those snowy Sunday afternoons.

COST TO TAXPAYERS FOR APPROPRIATIONS TO THE NEW PORTLAND COMMUNITY LIBRARY

IF THE TOWN APPROPRIATES \$5,000 TO THE LIBRARY. IT WILL COST EACH REAL ESTATE BILL .58 CENTS

IF THE TOWN APPROPRIATES \$8,000 TO THE LIBRARY, IT WILL COST EACH REAL ESTATE BILL .09 CENTS

IF THE TOWN APPROPRIATES \$12,000 TO THE LIBRARY IT WILL COST EACH REAL ESTATE BILL .14 CENTS

THESE FIGURES ARE FOUND BY MULTIPLYING THE AMOUNT ASKED FOR BY THE MIL RATE OF .0138 = THE TAX AMOUNT / 1174 (#OF REAL ESTATE ACCOUNTS)

EX: $12,000 \times .0138 = 165.60 / 1174 = .14$ CENTS

THE MIL RATE AND NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS WERE TAKEN FROM THE TOWN'S LATEST COMMITMENT BOOK ONLINE

Submitted: Shelia Atwood

New Portland Churches

Brrr.....it has been a long and cold winter! On February 10, we had our Annual Cabin Fever Reliever. Approximately, 50 people attended this event and enjoyed the bounce house, face painting, and of course, games! Our next event will be our Bonfire & Grill on the Hill. The date is set for March 3 on Gilmore Hill. Plan on bringing your sleds/tubes or just yourselves to enjoy some fellowship as well as some hot dogs! Our rain date is March 10. Please check our website for any updates as well as our Facebook page.

On another note, Easter is fast approaching! Please check our website for details on our services for Good Friday as well as Easter Sunday. All are welcomed, and we look forward to connecting with old as well as new friends.

Our church has so much to offer! You can visit our website www.westernmountainchurch.org and browse through all the programs. From online church services, SOS (serving our seniors), youth group programs, bible studies and so much more. Or you can connect with us in person. We are a vibrant group that would love to have you join us. Hope to see you at one of our events!

Submitted: Nanci Mahlmann





The New Portlander
Established July 1994
901 River Road
New Portland, Maine 04961

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

POSTAL PATRON
NEW PORTLAND MAINE 04961

<div><div>NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR</div><div>MARCH 2024</div><div></div></div>												SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
3		4		5		6		7		8		9													
WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am		Kingfield Seniors Group 12:00 pm		Town Office Closed Primary Election 8:00 am - 8:00 pm Community Room NPCL 8:00 am - noon Town Office 6:30 pm Selectmen's Meeting		NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm School Board CCS School 6:00 pm Planning Board 6:30 pm		NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm		NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm		NPCL 8:00 am - noon NPCL Trustees 9:00 am Wire Bridge Sno-Travellers 6:30 pm													
10		11		12		13		14		15		16													
Daylight Savings WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am				NPCL 8:00 am - noon Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm		NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm Water District Community Room 6:30 pm		NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm				NPCL 8:00 am - noon													
17		18		19		20		21		22		23													
St Patrick's Day NPCC Service 10:30 am WMBC Service 10:00 am		NPCL 8:00 am - noon Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm		NPCL 8:00 am - noon		NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm Deadline for <i>New Portlander</i> 4:00 pm		NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm				NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm													
24		25		26		27		28		29		30													
Palm Sunday WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am Easter WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am				NPCL 8:00 am - noon Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm		NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm		NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm		Good Friday		NPCL 8:00 am - noon													