

### 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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Publication Volume 30 . Number 10 . April 1, 2024

#### TOWN OFFICE INFORMATION

Phone: 628-4441 • Fax: 628-4440

**Town Office Contact Information and Hours of Operation:** 

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday10am - 5pm Thursday12pm - 6pm
own Manager/CEO: Stacie Rundlett Emailnewportlandtownmanager@gmail.com
Peputy Town Manager: Lori Alyea Email townofnewportland@gmail.com Office hours: Same as the Town office hours
own Clerk: Jacob Pinkham / Deputy Town Clerk: Brittany Rundlet Emailnewportlandtownclerk@gmail.com Office hours: By appointment
<b>PI:</b> Dan Gilbert - 207-938-3866

**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	y of each month6:30p	m

- **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

Notice: The Town of New Portland is accepting applications for a Code Enforcement Officer. Please contact the Town Office for more information. This is a part-time stipend position with mileage reimbursement.

The Town Office will be closed on Monday, April 15 in observance of Patriots Day.

To have a little fun in recognition of National Oatmeal Cookie Day, Tuesday, April 30 the Town Office will be giving out FREE freshly baked homemade oatmeal cookies in a variety of choices. Feel free to just stop by and grab a cookie to sweeten up your day.

Submitted: Satcie Rundlett, Town Manager

#### Selectmen

The annual Town Meeting was held on March 2, 2024. The meeting was well attended by citizens of New Portland. It was efficient and went well with all articles passing.

The cannabis ordinance was amended a little, while a new noise ordinance was enacted. Both can be picked up at the Town Office or down loaded from our website.

Discontinuing the Tannery Bridge was not on the agenda. We, the selectmen, would like more time to obtain the true cost of repairing it or removing it. We want to get this done as soon as possible, so we can make sure the local snowmobile club has time to erect a new bridge if needed before the next season of snowmobiling. When a solution has been found it may require a special Town Meeting. So keep that in your mind as the Town moves forward on this issue.

As always everyone is welcome to attend a selectmen's meeting. We are here to help guide the Town forward. Thank you for your time.

#### Minutes for Selectmen's Meeting February 19, 2024

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Tina Poulin(absent), Janet White; Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett, Lori Alyea, Chris Rivers

- 1. Raymond called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.
- 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: There was a brief discussion regarding Tax Acquired properties and the new laws that have been passed. No decisions were made.
- 4. Items by the Public: None
- 5. Department Heads: None
- 6. Items by the Town Manager: The Board reviewed and signed the payroll and A/C warrants.
- 7. Items by the Board of Selectmen: a.) The Board reviewed and signed the 2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. b.) The Board asked Stacie to invite the Road Commissioner to the next meeting. c.) Stacie discussed with the Board the benefits to having TRIO WEB and using T.I.F. funds for the initial setup fees. Raymond motioned to use T.I.F. funds to get this set up for the office. Janet seconded and all were in favor. d.) The Board discussed information on using ARPA funds for an electronic sign. It was motioned and seconded to use ARPA funds for an electronic sign. All were in favor. Stacie would contact the previous vendor to get a new quote. e.) There was a brief discussion on FEMA and the status from the storms in 2023. f.) The Board discussed an emergency traffic ordinance to close the Tannery Bridge. It was motioned and seconded to do this all were in favor. g.) There was a brief discussion regarding a heat pump to be installed in the community room to help cool the room during warmer months. Half to be paid by the Fire Department and the other half from the Town Office. It was approved by the Board of Selectmen.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the March 18 meeting. smr

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

#### RSU 74 / School Board

The board meeting was held at Carrabec Community School. It began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjustments to the Agenda: An appointment was added, along with an executive session and an action item at the end.

Minutes: The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Presentation: There was no presentation.

Superintendent Report: Mr. Campbell gave a few updates. There is a sinkhole at CCS that is about 24 by 30 inches, with an 18 inch drop. The temporary restructure of bus routes (moving to only seven) kicked off on March 6. The morning went reasonably smoothly. Mr. Campbell is planning to talk with the drivers on Thursday to see how the Wednesday pm run and the Thursday am run went. There will be a Policy Committee meeting on March 13 (6:00 pm), a Library/ Technology meeting on March 20 (5:00 pm), and the first budget workshop will also be held on March 20 (6:00 pm).

Appointments: Candy Lebeau - bus emergency operator; Kelly Vicneire - alt ed paperwork; Erik Carey - CHS baseball coach; Jim Davis - CHS baseball volunteer, Scott Mason - CHS boys tennis; Amy Price - CHS girls tennis; Chad White - CHS track; John Scott - CCS baseball coach;

Robert Lightbody - CCS baseball volunteer; Troy Dunphy - CHS softball volunteer; Emily Witham - Long Term sub, Solon.

A board member asked whether it was necessary to pay coaches. Since we encourage students to do community service, she felt it might be better for adults to set an example by volunteering to coach. She also questioned whether it was right to have an employee "triple dip", receiving pay to teach, be athletic director, and coach.

Resignation: Tiffany Medwick: bus driver Nomination: Kayli Flint: special ed - ed tech 3

Admin Reports: Most of the administrators who were present chose not to add to their written reports. Peter Campbell informed the board that the CHS boys soccer team visited the statehouse. The CHS one act play performers will compete in Skowhegan on Saturday afternoon. Hayley McFayden has reached the state competition of Poetry Out Loud.

#### NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is April 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.

Student Report: Kayliy Folco discussed the happenings at CHS. Dillon Nelson is the current CHS student of the month, and Laurie Nile is staff member of the month. Mrs. Marcoux's JMG students have worked on FAFSA, soft skills, and leadership skills. Mrs. Long's Outdoor Learning group has been practicing First Aid. Seniors are working on the yearbook and designing shirts. Many seniors will attend KVCC after graduation.

Committees: Buildings/Grounds met on Feb 13. They toured the bus garage and looked at tiles in the CCS k-5 wing. The Policy Committee met on February 21, as did the Finance Committee.

Public Participation: All was quiet.

Softball Trip: The board approved an overnight CHS softball trip on April 5-6.

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the second readings of policy AD –

Educational Philosophy/Mission, ADA – School
District Goals and Objectives, ADC – TobaccoFree Schools: Use and Possession of Tobacco and
Electronic Smoking Devices, ACAD – Hazing, ADAA
–School System Commitment to Standards for
Ethical and Responsible Behavior, ADF – School
DistrictCommitment to Learning Results approved

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the first reading of policy BBA – School Board Powers and Responsibilities. approved

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the first reading of policy DJH – Purchasing and Contracting: Procurement/Staff Code of Conduct. approved

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the first reading of policy DN – School Properties Disposition. approved

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan. approved

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the purchase of a 150Kw Generac back-up generator from Ben King & Sons for a price of \$47,070.80 including installation.

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will waive the fee for the use of CHS as a classroom setting for driver's education offered through a private company per policy KF. This item was tabled. It will be discussed at the March 13 Policy Committee meeting, and likely be back on the agenda for the April board meeting.

Executive Session: The board entered executive session at 7:07 pm. At 7:47 pm, the public portion of the meeting resumed.

Director of Operations: Following the executive session, the board voted to hire Chris Roux as Director of Operations.

Adjournment: The meeting ended around 7:50 pm.

Submitted: Dave Ela, Carrabec Teachers Association

#### Superintendent RSU 74

#### March 20, 2024

Dear Residents of New Portland:

At the March monthly meeting of the Board of Directors, Christopher Roux was nominated as the Director of Operations. Mr. Roux's experiences include a community police officer, security officer for a bank, and most recently supervisor for a nursing home company. In his supervisory role, his department oversaw the running and upkeep of the buildings. Chris resides in Anson with his wife and two children.

On this day I will be reviewing with the full Board our proposed budget for the 2024-2025 school year. This is our last full year with federal money to support programs that are geared with assisting students in ELA and math on skills impacted during the disruptive school years due to COVID. The administrative team prepared a budget with all our current resources in the budget proposal which resulted in a two-digit increase to the local taxpayers. Reality is, that number was too much. We then discussed essential pieces necessary to support both the social emotional needs as well as the educational needs of our students. The revised budget has significantly reduced the increase to the local share. I will share more details in my April report once the Board has given final approval.

Our policy committee has been discussing at length the Board policy on Community Use of Facilities. Discussions have been on-going for two meetings as they attempt to balance our liability ramifications with convenience for use to our community members. Our next meeting is in mid-May.

A reminder, your School Board meets the first Wednesday of every month. Respectfully...

Submitted: Mark. L. Campbell, Superintendent of Schools

#### **New Portland Community Library**

Open house and munchies for all donors! Whether you give money, time, or/and donations, we invite you to our "Open House" April 7, Sunday, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Join us at the library so we can tell you about the board, introduce board members, and hear what you want about the library. We will be having delicious munchies, tea and coffee. And while you are here, feel free to check out our used books, dvds, jigsaw puzzles, (exchange one of yours for one of ours) and displays. We will also be hosting our reiki massage therapist who will be giving 15 minute free massages for this event. We will be adding additional dates of April 13 and 20 from from 9:00 – 11:30 am for reiki massage. Check our front door or call the library.

Don't forget our two donations (and yes, of course, we'll just take the money to put in the main account) our penny jar on the circulation table. Yes, we take the time to roll the pennies and take them to the bank. When we reach \$100 to buy books about Maine and by Maine authors. We also have an account at the redemption center in Kingfield. Give the proceeds of your bottles to the library; we can put it to good use!

We are currently taking donations for our silent auction at the Happy Horseshoe on May 25. When you are cleaning out your house this spring, we'd love to sell some of the items at this auction, one of our bigger moneymakers of the year. We accept good quality merchandise that has some "life" left in it. No clothes please. Books will go into our next book sale in June.

We are still looking for old family recipes to include in our cookbook. Do you have a recipe that your grandmother always used to make that would be fun to include and share? We have forms at the library or you can just take a "picture" and send it to us at newportlandcl@gmail.com. Be sure to include who was the family member and anything you would like us to add about them.

Our next computer class is understanding the internet. The internet has become a large part of our daily lives and having a basic understanding of its origins is essential. This course introduces the origins of the internet, how it works and what you can do on the internet.

Finally, I have a project that needs an extra set of hands. I've spent several years increasing the Maine books and now find they have to be sorted and labeled. And, if you are feeling more ambitious, this could include finding articles of interest about the area to post on Facebook. If you would like to work on this project, please talk to the library director at the library.

As a last addition, we are hosting our meditation class with Renee on March 31 at 4:30 pm. This will be a

meeting to find out what is the best times and days for the group.

Upcoming events at the library: Meditation (first meeting) April 31 at 4:30 pm. April 7, 1:00 – 3:00 pm and the Thank you "Open House", Reiki massage. April 18, 4:00 pm – Understanding the interest class.

Submitted: Shelia Atwood

#### Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers

The last meeting of the 2023-24 season was called to order at 6:30 pm. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Trail Master's Report: The trail master was absent due to illness, but it was reported he is working on getting the muncipal and club grants ready to send in.

Old Business: The technology person who maintains the club website was contacted, and he said he could make the club map downloadable to only people who join the club. This will be set up over the summer.

New Business: 1.) The club membership chairperson reported the club had a total of 112 members this season. 2.) A motion was made, seconded, and accepted to have two members find someone who can fix the Bombadier groomer. 3.) A discussion was held about 2024-25 membership dues. A motion was made, seconded, and accepted to change dues next season. If a person wants to only join our club it will be \$20, and if they choose to also join the MSA it will be an additional \$15. The tech person will be notified of the new prices so changes can be made to the website. 4.) Lastly, several thanks need to be sent to the landowners for allowing our trails to go across their land; the members, who through their support, help us with our operating costs; and most importantly, to the members who volunteer their time to do the many things that have to happen in order for the trails to be maintained and the club to function. 5.) The club is planning on having a booth at the New Portland Fair again this coming September. An email will be going out sometime during the summer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm Next meeting will be October 12.

Submitted: Joyce Knowles

### Mission at the Eastward (MATE) MATE Housing Ministry

## 2024 Application for the Home Repair Program Application Deadline: <u>April 30, 2024</u>

Name:	Phone:
E-mail address:	
Street Address:	
Town:	Zip Code:
	Have a mortgage;Mortgage with other than a bank or a letter from the mortgage - owner before work can start.)
Are you current on property tax payments?	Y or N
Is there a lien on your home? Y or N	
Number of people in the household that are:	Elderly; Disabled;Single Parent; Military Service [active or veteran]
Total number of people living in my home:	(Ages: up to 18; 19 to 59; 60+)
Combined family annual income:	Less than \$10,000
Are you or will you be able and willing to hel	p with repairs to your home? Yes No
If so, what are you able to do?	
I will be able to contribute toward the cost of	materials:NoYes \$(able to contribute)
Signature:	Date:
Where did you hear about the MATE Housin	g Ministry?
than home repair that you need help with, ar right agency.	ervices in the community, in the event you may need other help. If there is more and are interested, please let us know and we can assist you in reaching out to the
Other assistance needed, if any:	
Please return this form to: MATE House	sing Ministry, P.O . Box 206, Farmington ME 04938

All personal information is for the use of Mission at the Eastward MHM and is held in strict confidence.

www.missionattheeastward.org

or submit the form via email to: housing@missionattheeastward.org



#### **MATE Housing Ministry**

#### A Program of Mission at the Eastward

**WHO?** Volunteer Mission teams from all over the northeast come to Central Western Maine to share their talents and caring with area homeowners, who without assistance with labor and/or materials, would be unable to make needed repairs and maintenance to their homes. Many of the volunteers take vacation time to be here.

**WHAT?** Painting, roof repairs, porches, steps, ramps and simple interior and exterior repair are likely prospects for the teams. Wherever possible, we ask homeowners and families to participate in the work and its cost. At times the mission can help with materials through grants and donations.

**WHERE?** Currently we're serving mostly Franklin County: Farmington area, Chesterville, Jay, N. Jay, Livermore Falls, Wilton, New Sharon, Temple, Strong, New Vineyard. Somerset County: New Portland, Lexington, Highland Plantation & Embden. Volunteer work groups stay in North New Portland and Farmington, and we like to keep the work within 30 minutes of these towns.

**WHEN?** Volunteer Mission teams arrive during the months of June, July and August. The date and time the team will be at your home will be coordinated with you if your application is accepted.

**WHY?** The MATE Housing Ministry was created to help people in need stay in their home by doing needed repairs they could not otherwise afford to do. The volunteer Mission teams seek to do Christian service. They are called out of their everyday lives to serve in our community. They come to work on housing and would be pleased to work along with you. Their experience is made better by the time you share with them.

**HOW?** If you own (or are buying) your home, all you have to do is to fill out this application and return it. Each application received will be considered, and you will be contacted for further information if necessary. We'll call you to set up an assessment appointment, and we'll notify you, whether or not we are able to do the work requested.

**MATE-Housing Ministry** determines what applications are accepted based on the skill levels of the volunteer teams and the extent and complexity of the work requested. We do our best to prioritize the requests as to those most in need of assistance. We cannot guarantee that we can do everything requested, and it must be kept in mind that the work will be done by volunteers with varying skill levels. Whatever we do is done with the safety of the volunteers as our highest priority, and in completing a job to our mutual [client & MHM] satisfaction.

<u>Mortgages held by other than a financial institution</u>: In cases where the mortgage is held by other than a financial institution, MATE-Housing Ministry will require them to also sign off on any repairs made.

#### **Kingfield Seniors Group**

Save the date! April 1 is the next Senior Meeting/Potluck. This is no April fool's joke, lol. Come and enjoy potluck and games with everyone. We meet at Western Mountains Baptist Church at 12:00 pm. The church is located on Rte 27N right before entering Kingfield. Any questions Please feel free to reach out to Jo Bessey-Holmes at 207 779-7200. Remember all are welcomed and you do NOT have to be a Kingfield resident to join.

Submitted: Nanci Mahlmann

#### Citizens' Corner

Have your heard? There is a great program that is assisting Mainers with the online world. This program can help with a lot of things. Learn about the digital programs and helpful resources available to Somerset County, like \$30.00 off your internet service if you qualify, help in getting a laptop, desktop,or tablet. Take a class on computer issues, some classes are being taught at our library. Pamphlets can be picked up at the Town Office. Please check this program out. The world will soon require us all to be computer ready. Don't get left behind. Reach out to www.somersetbroadband.org

Submitted: Janet White

#### **New Portland Churches**

New Portland Church: April showers bring May flowers. What do Mayflowers bring? Spring came early this year. Nice for the gardens and the grass, not so good for timber harvest, skiing or ticks. (Unless you happen to be a tick.)

April 3 will be our final Wednesday Luncheon Social until next fall. While things got off to a slow start earlier in the winter, attendance has picked up and it has been really nice to see people turn out and enjoy a little lunch and a lot of conviviality. Join us on April 3, from 11:30 am – 2:00 pm for soup or stew, maybe a sandwich, and good conversation.

We are still meeting in the Joyce Pease meeting house, adjoining the church, but in the coming weeks, as the weather continues to get warmer, we will make a decision to start meeting in the sanctuary. It's always a pleasure to be back in that lovely space.

As the months get closer to summer, we are preparing for the MATE work groups that visit us annually. There are two work groups confirmed for weeks in July and August, and we may have other groups too. If you have a need for work done on your house, please fill out an application for MATE's housing ministry. They can be found at the town office and at the church.

If you are joining us for worship our ministers for the month of April are April 7, Communion Sunday, Rev. Stan Wheeler; April 14, Pastor MaryEllen Royce; April 21, Debby Bliss Bujnocki; April 28, Rev. Dick Waddell. Please join us for coffee hour at 10:30 am with worship following at 11:00 am unless otherwise noted. Respectfully...

PS. The answer is: Pilgrims...

Western Mountains Baptist Church: Well, it looks like spring has finally arrived!! Everyone is busy in anticipation! We at Western Mountains Baptist Church are not letting any grass grow under our feet either! We are in the process of collecting applications for our annual WMBC Community Scholarship Award from high school students who reside in the towns served by either RSU 74 (Carrabec) or MSAD 58 (Mt. Abram) The award is \$1000 and is paid before the first semester. The deadline is May 15. Please submit an application via our website: www. or mail the form to: WMBC Scholarship PO Box 264, Kingfield, ME 04947.

\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE; VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL June 24-28 9:00 am – 12:00 pm[PRE-K through seventh grade (more info to follow) \*\*\*

Also, please check our website for any and all upcoming events! It's going to be a wonderful spring!

Submitted: Nanci Mahlmann





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

# **POSTAL PATRON**NEW PORTLAND MAINE 04961

				300 NPCL 8:00 am – noon Cookie Day Town Office	67	MMW Service 10:00 am
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DONG KERR PHOTO

**VPRIL 2024**NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR