



# NEW PORTLANDER

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Visit the Town of New Portland's web page at [newportlandmaine.org](http://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](mailto:newportlandtownmanager@gmail.com)

#### Deputy Town Manager: Lori Alyea

Email..... [townofnewportland@gmail.com](mailto:townofnewportland@gmail.com)

Office hours: Same as the Town office hours

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

Email..... [newportlandtownclerk@gmail.com](mailto:newportlandtownclerk@gmail.com)

Office hours: By appointment

#### LPI: Dan Gilbert - 207-938-3866

#### Assessor's Agent: Audra Swanson

Wednesday..... 10am - 2pm

Email..... [newportlandassessor@gmail.com](mailto:newportlandassessor@gmail.com)

#### Fire Department: Chief Kip Poulin

#### Animal Control Officer: Ryan Mulherin - 340-8137

## Town Manager

**Reminder:** The Town Office will not be open on Monday, September 2 in observance of Labor Day.

*Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager*

## Selectmen

### Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for July 15, 2024

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin; Janet White; David Veilleux (absent); Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager; Audra Swanson; James Reinhard; Garrett Oswald; Brian Rundlett; Kristin Wallaker; David and Lynn Cary; Valencia Schubert; Mindy Newman, Brent Davenport.

1. Janet called the meeting to order at 6:28 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 foreclosure properties; no decisions were made. There was a brief discussion regarding Tannery Bridge; no decisions were made. There was a brief discussion regarding a property violation on River Road (Kalista). No decisions were made.
4. Items by the Public: Valencia discussed with the Board a project that the library is working on in memory of Sheila Atwood, Librarian, who passed away. After a discussion about the project the Board motioned to donate \$400 from overlay towards the library garden project. Kristen Wallaker presented to the Board options for food sovereignty ordinances, which has been a topic of discussion before. The Board will review and move forward at a later time.
5. Department Heads: Audra Swanson, tax assessor, spoke to the Board about her annual sales analysis report and that some of the land schedules need to be corrected. The Board agreed with her suggested changes. She would run numbers next week to prepare for tax commitment. Ron Nunes, road commissioner, briefed the Board on FEMA/MEMA funds from the May 1, 2023 storm. We finally received a formal letter stating that roughly \$46,000 is due within the next couple of weeks. There was a discussion on

## 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

grading and a few areas that need to be addressed. Janet discussed speed limit signs.

6. Items by the Town Manager: a.) The Board reviewed and signed payroll and A/C warrants. b.) The Board reviewed and signed the May Treasurer's Report.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen: The Board opened the two sealed bids which they had received for the Snow Plow Contract. 1.) JR Davenport Trucking LLC- \$354,000 per year. 2.) Jordan Excavation- \$390,560. Raymond motioned to accept JR Davenport Trucking's bid of \$354,000 per year, Janet seconded and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

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

### **Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for August 6, 2024**

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin; Janet White; David Veilleux; Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager; Lori Alyea; Kip Poulin; Brian Rundlett; Mike Senecal; Garrett Oswald; Lynn and David Cary; James Reinhard; James Wilson; Ron Nunes

1. Janet called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Raymond motioned to accept the minutes as written, Dave seconded and all were in favor.
3. Old Business: The Board discussed the food sovereignty ordinance. The Board is in favor of this type of ordinance and would like to see this on the warrant for the next annual town meeting.
4. Items by the Public: Mike Senecal discussed with the Board the dog mauling that occurred on July 15. Dave would reach out to Ryan Mulherin, ACO, and have Ryan get in touch with the owner of the dog that got mauled. David Cary discussed with the Board again what the options are for Tannery Bridge. There was some discussion regarding having a public hearing on September 3 and then a special town meeting to follow immediately afterwards.
5. Department Heads: Kip updated the Board on the hydro check and training with Kingfield. Ron updated the Board on road complaints and work still needing to be done. There was a brief discussion regarding FEMA funds and when they might be arriving. No word yet on when.
6. Items by the Town Manager: a.) The Board reviewed and signed the payroll and A/C warrants. b.) The Board reviewed and signed the June Treasurer's Report.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen: The selectmen had a brief discussion regarding foreclosure properties and how to proceed moving forward now that some of the laws have changed regarding this issue. a.) Janet motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. 405(6)(E) legal matters at 6:48 pm. The Board resumed the public part of

the meeting at 7:00 pm. The Board discussed with Jim Wilson that they would not be paying for vehicle repairs damages that he said occurred on town roads. They discussed the issues with Middle Road and his knowledge of the issues. b.) Janet motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(A) personnel matters at 7:15 pm. The Board resumed the public part of the meeting at 7:58pm. No decisions were made.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

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

Selectmen's Notes: As we start the fall season, try to enjoy the beautiful colors we will soon see in the leaves. Remember to check on your neighbors, be kind to each other.

We are looking for volunteers to form two committees for the town. One committee will be to look into school costs and options; the other committee will be to bring back the Municipal Advisor Committee (MAC). If you are interested, please let the Town Office staff know by September 30, 2024. Thank you. It takes a village to run a village.

Remember you are all invited to attend a selectmen's meeting anytime for your own knowledge of articles that come in front of the selectmen's board. If you have ever thought of being a selectmen, you should come to a meeting to really see if the seat would be a good fit for your life. Trust us when we say it will invade your personal life and can be a challenging job. It can also be a great job knowing that you are helping your fellow citizens of this town move forward in this ever changing fast pace world.

Please take notice of our new sign by the town office.

## **Lexington – Highland Historical Society**

The Lexington Highland Historical Society is regretfully announcing a change in our plans to have a dedication and to celebrate with a pig roast at the Lexington Highland Historical Museum. This event was scheduled for September 21, 2024, and was announced in the August issue of the *New Portlander*. Our plan now is to have the dedication and pig roast in late spring or early summer of 2025. We will provide a definitive date in early spring 2025. Please watch for a notice in the *New Portlander*.

*Submitted: Jim Taylor, Lexington Highland Historical Society*

**NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is September 20 by 4:00 pm.**

Any articles, submissions, information for publication should be received by:

**Dallas Landry • PO Box 34, North New Portland, ME 04961 • phone 628-4201 • email: alderswamp2@gmail.com**

If there are any questions or needs regarding the receiving of the *New Portlander*, those inquiries should be directed to the Town Manager.

# Superintendent of Schools

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August 19, 2024

Dear Residents of New Portland,

As the first day of school nears, our buildings are all beginning to shine in preparation for the return of our student bodies. The tiling project at Carrabec Community School was completed and with the waxing done, room furniture and classroom supplies have been brought back in from trailers. A huge "Thank You" to *T T Dunphy* for loaning the district two trailers to store these materials while this work was being done. By using these trailers, we emptied all rooms and had to move these supplies only twice as the entire project was being done. Our new bus was delivered on August 7. We are waiting for the cameras and the radio system to be installed but believe this will be completed for opening day runs. Work continues on Solon Elementary to address the rainwater which was coming in around the windows on the tower.

The Board had their first meeting of the 2024-2025 school year on August 7. At this meeting, the Board re-elected Troy Dunphy as chair and Kevin Sousa as vice chair. As well, a lengthy discussion was held around the use of cellular phones during school hours. The policy on this topic which was scheduled for a second reading was sent back to the Policy Committee for possible revisions. As currently written, the policy states the use of cellular devices is not to interfere with the educational process. Discussions moved in the direction of not permitting the use of these devices at all during the school day. The Policy Committee is scheduled to meet in mid-September to discuss the current policy.

As well, in mid-September, the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee will be meeting. Work for that meeting will be focused on developing a sustainable long-term maintenance plan for our buildings and grounds. Until this summer, maintenance has been more of a reactive process versus a planned preventative maintenance. The goal will be to keep our buildings safe and weather worthy for years to come in an effort to minimize unplanned huge dollar repairs.

The Board will have a presentation on ALICE at the September meeting. ALICE is a response plan to an agitated intruder to any of our buildings. ALICE is an acronym for Alert (inform everyone on details of the situation), Lockdown (secure in place if threat is in near vicinity), Inform (keep everyone informed as situation evolves), Confront (when situations warrants confront intruder), and Evacuate (leave the vicinity if and when safe to do so). We sent Chris Roux, Director of Operations and Bruce Dostie, Dean of Students, both former law enforcement personnel to training on this program. Our plan is to work in conjunction with members of the Somerset County Sheriffs' Office to train staff and students on ALICE. Parents will be informed of the process through a web training before we engage students in the process.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. The Board meets the first Wednesday of each month throughout the school year. Respectfully ...

*Submitted: Mark L. Campbell, Superintendent*

## Kingfield Seniors Group

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Last month we were fortunate to have Lois and Gary Hall entertain us with music with their guitar and mandolin! As always, food and entertainment was enjoyed! For September's meeting, which will take place on September 9 due to the Labor Day holiday, we have the pleasure of having Julia Bouwsma speak. If you are unaware, she is Maine's Poet Laureate as well as Kingfield's very own librarian. Come join us for fellowship and food! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Nanci Mahlmann; 207 628 4461

*Submitted: Nanci Mahlmann*

## School Board

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The August 7 board meeting was held at Carrabec Community School. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjustments to the agenda: Six appointments and five nominations were added to the agenda.

Minutes: The minutes of the June 5 board meeting, as well as the minutes of the June 12 and July 24 special board meetings were approved.

Student Handbooks: The principals had previously shared the changes they had made to their schools' student handbooks with board members. This topic generated much discussion, roughly 75 minutes worth of discussion... The formatting of the handbooks was a concern. It is difficult for people to access and properly view the handbooks from a cell phone.

The CHS revised handbook contained changes banning muscle shirts and the wearing of hoods. There was also language cutting back on allowable times for students to use their phones. It was the cell phone discussion that fostered the most debate. Many, seemingly a majority, of board members appeared to be of the opinion student cell phone usage should not just be reduced, but eliminated, during the school day. Peter Campbell stated that he was not opposed to curtailing student phone usage, but he had crafted the revised handbook language to better align with school board policy. He had considered making this change during the 23-24 school year, as he had found student use of phones during class time to be a problem. At times and in some settings, perhaps, the phones served almost as a "baby-sitting service" for students. He did not make a change during the year because he said there have been times in the past when he has tried to make changes mid-stream, and there has been some resistance

Nothing was officially decided at the board meeting because the board does not vote on the handbooks; they just review them. Also, board policy changes do not take effect in one meeting. They start with a meeting of the policy committee, and then go through at least two readings before the full board. However, if I were to make a wager, I would bet a substantial sum of money that the CHS student handbook will contain language similar to the GS, Solon, and CCS handbooks - eliminating cell phone usage during school hours. I might also make a wager that the board's policy committee will revise the language of the *Student Use of Cellular Telephones and Other Electronic Devices* policy in a similar way. A board member raised a question about allowing students to wear hats at CHS if hoods were being banned.

Chris Roux: This spring, several buses failed inspection. All but one have been repaired. A new bus was purchased, and it has arrived. Mr. Roux thanked Dennis and Brian for their work to repair the buses. The storage area of the bus garage has been cleaned out. Work has been done to spruce up the grounds at CHS. Bus drivers are still needed. Bus driving positions are five or six hours. Many people seeking employment want an eight hour position. In the future we may need to create combined positions (6 hr driver, 2 hr kitchen, etc). Soon admin and members of the board's buildings/grounds committee will do facility tours. They will visit each building and try to come up with a four to five year plan for needed improvements. At GS, all the summer cleaning is done. Sheetrock repairs have been made. Trees have been trimmed. The entryway overhang will be fixed soon. The Solon pavement project is complete. A new sign may be coming soon. The bell tower will be re-faced. Some siding repairs and window replacement are needed. Painting has been done and trees have been trimmed. The new tiling in the k-5 wing of CCS has been done. The CCS and CHS gym floors have been resurfaced. Some spaces have been repurposed to allow for more storage. There were 14 leaks in the CHS roof. I believe, they have all been fixed, but apparently I didn't write that down.... Oops. Outside areas have been cleaned up. There will be new speed limit signs at CCS and Solon. Board member David Royce asked Mr. Roux to look into heating issues at GS. Board member Tori McDonald asked about the process for adding crosswalks near schools. Mr. Roux stated that the towns need to address the sidewalks before the state will add crosswalks.

Superintendent Report: Mr. Campbell added a bit to his written report. He gave board members a new board meeting schedule that had changed the location of some meetings. The September meeting will be held in Solon. The October and November meetings will be at CCS.

Appointments: Jack Kaplan: Will Power, Fall; Jack Kaplan: Will Power, Winter; Jack Kaplan: Will Power, Spring; Jack Kaplan: Cobra Power, Fall; Jack Kaplan: Cobra Power, Winter; Jack Kaplan: Cobra Power, Spring; Hunter Durland: Boys

Soccer Coach, CHS; Ashley Cates: Girls Soccer Volunteer Coach, CHS; Hal Larlee: IEP Paperwork; Chudula Holden, IEP Paperwork; Amy Cates: IEP Paperwork;

Resignations: Heather Austin: Grade 4 Teacher, GSS. Mr. Campbell wished Ms. Austin well.

Nominations: Annie Arsenault: Special Ed, Ed Tech 3; Winston (Chip) Gilbert: bus driver/cook 1; Jami Oakes: Special Ed, Ed Tech 3; Jodi Amodio: Special Ed, Ed Tech 2; Ronda Cloutier: Special Ed, Ed Tech 3; Bruce Poissonnier: Van Driver; Raymond Cloutier; Custodian, CHS; Brenda Mullin: Tier III Ed Tech III, GSS. All nominations were approved.

Committees: There were no committee reports.

Public Participation: No one spoke.

Board Chair: Troy Dunphy was re-elected board chair. He was unopposed.

Board Vice-Chair: Kevin Sousa was re-elected board vice-chair. He was unopposed.

Second Reading of Policies: The board approved the second readings of policy FF – Naming of an Area Within a School or on School Property, policy KF – Community Use of School Facilities, and policy JL – District Wellness. The policy JFCK – Student Use of Cellular Telephones and Other Electronic Devices was not approved. It is going back to the Policy Committee for revision (as discussed in a previous agenda item).

Delegate and Alternative Delegate for the Maine School Boards Association: The board selected Grace Carreiro as the delegate and Troy Dunphy as the alternate.

Safe Return to School In-Person Instructional Plan for 2024-25: The plan was approved.

Adjournment: The meeting ended around 7:50 pm.

Reminder: The next school board meeting will be held on September 4 at Solon Elementary School.

*Submitted: Dave Ela, President of Carrabec Teachers Association*

## New Portland Churches

Summer has come to an end, but there is no need to fret. Still a lot is going on. We have exercise class on Mondays/Thursdays at 9:00 am for seniors called "Strong Bones". On Tuesday mornings, a group of ladies meet for sewing class. Wednesday mornings are Ladies Bible Study. All are FREE programs! Our Bridging the Gap program is September 28 this month. Won't you join us? And why not bring a friend? Check us out on our website [www.westernmountainschurch.org](http://www.westernmountainschurch.org)

*Submitted: Nanci Mahlmann*

# New Portland Community Library

Hello New Portland!

September is Library Card Sign-up Month! Signing up for a library card will allow you to access books, DVDs, newspapers, magazines, eBooks, and audiobooks for FREE! All our patrons can access free audiobooks and eBooks by downloading the CloudLibrary app or going to yourcloudlibrary.com. All you need is your patron number.

Sometimes we may not have the book you are looking for, but luckily we have the Interlibrary Loan system. And with that, the lending library is back in action! The official start date is September 3! We hope you are as excited about this as we are.

Another successful fundraising event in the books thanks to your efforts. A special thank you to everyone who donated to the UBM bake sale. The continued support from the community is phenomenal. You continue to show up and show out at every event, and we cannot thank you enough. The library is vital to our community, and we wouldn't be here without you!

From now until October 29, the library is selling tickets for our upcoming Calendar Raffle. Each day in November, names will be drawn, and winners contacted by phone and announced on Facebook. We were fortunate to have many generous businesses and kind patrons donate. There are many great items to win including over \$500 in cash! Tickets are \$10 each or 6 tickets for \$50! Remember the more tickets you buy the more chances you have to win. Scan the QR code or visit our Facebook page to stay up-to-date on the raffle.



Scarlett DeShong is our new digital navigator for Somerset County. She will meet with individuals and provide one-on-one tech help upon request. If you need tech assistance with any of your devices, contact the library, and we will set up a meeting with Scarlett.

In the coming months, we will be dipping our toes in the water slowly and trying out new events. Our goal is to offer programs that are needed and of interest to the community. Programs include story/craft hour, puzzle/craft/stem nights, book clubs, and lots more. The NPCL needs volunteers who have great ideas and to help lead events! We want your input on which events to choose and feedback on programs held.

As a homeschool mom, I would love to utilize the library as a homeschool hub for the New Portland Community. I

can't do any of this alone and I need your help. If you and your family are interested, please attend an informal meeting on Tuesday, September 10 at 10:00 am. Feel free to bring yourself, your kiddos, and any ideas you have!

Also, if you have a teen who needs volunteer hours for school, we would love to have them join us at the library. The youth in our community is important to us, and we would love to hear their ideas as well!

Speaking of volunteers, long-time volunteers Matt and Renee Oesterlin are moving and will no longer be volunteering or hosting meditation at the library. Even though they will be missed tremendously we wish them nothing but the best in their new season of life! Thank you Matt and Renee for your dedication to the NPCL!

Lastly, Sheila Atwood served as Library Director for almost ten years. Since her sudden passing, we have been collecting donations to construct a memorial bench in her memory. Donations made in Sheila's memory go directly to the construction of the bench. Our hope is to have the bench built and placed at the library by the spring of 2025 for all to enjoy.

*Mark your calendars:* September 10, 10:00 am – 11:00 am – Homeschool meeting. Meet other homeschoolers/parents and share ideas. September 14 and 15 is the New Portland Fair. We will have a booth set up and would love for you to stop by and see us. There will be great raffle prizes up for grabs, calendar raffle tickets for sale, and maybe a few other items to choose from! Saturday, September 14 and 21 from 9:00 - 11:30 am Michelle is offering 15 minute Reiki sessions. Any donations given, Michelle generously gifts to the library. Thursday, September 12, 19, and 26 from 4:00 – 5:00 pm: We are offering free computer classes. Learn about the basics of Microsoft Excel. In each class, we will learn about data entry, cell formatting, and the basics of formulas. *Requirements for this class:* A Windows or Mac computer connected to the internet and MS Excel 2016 or later on your device. You may sign up in the library or by scanning this QR code with your camera.



Thursday, October 3 at 6:30 pm join us for our new book club! This will be an organizational meeting where we can discuss how we'll select books, when and where we will meet, and answer any questions. Your ideas are welcome! Saturday, October 5 is our next book and bake sale.

Well, that's all for summer! Talk to you at the library!

*Submitted: Mindy Newman, Library Director*



# 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**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	2 Town Office Closed / Labor Day	3 NPCL 8:00 am - noon Selectmen's Meeting - 6:30 pm	4 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm School Board Meeting CCS 6:00 pm Planning Board 6:30 pm	5 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	6 6	7 NPCL 8:00 am - noon
8 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	9 NPCL 8:00 am - noon Senior Meeting WMBC noon Pot Luck	10 NPCL 8:00 am - noon Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	11 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm Water District Community Room 6:30 pm	12 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	13 13	14 NPCL 8:00 am - noon NPCL Trustees 9:00 am
15 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	16 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	17 NPCL 8:00 am - noon	18 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	19 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	20 Deadline for New Portlander 4:00 pm	21 NPCL 8:00 am - noon
22 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	23 23	24 NPCL 8:00 am - noon Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	25 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	26 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	27 27	28 NPCL 8:00 am - noon
29 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	30 30					

**NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR  
SEPTEMBER 2024**



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