



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 31 • NUMBER 8 • FEBRUARY 1, 2025

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: By appointment

LPI: Dan Gilbert - 207-938-3866

Assessor's Agent: Audra Swanson

Wednesday..... 10am - 2pm

Email..... newportlandassessor@gmail.com

Fire Department: Chief Kip Poulin

Animal Control Officer: Ryan Mulherin - 340-8137

Town Manager

The town will be having a second public hearing regarding the three ordinances and ATV question which will be on our annual town meeting warrant. This public hearing will be at the February 3 selectmen's meeting. All are welcome.

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

Selectmen

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for December 16, 2024

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Janet White, David Veilleux, Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett, Lori Alyea, Garrett Oswald

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 them as written, David seconded and all were in favor.
3. Items by the Public - None
4. Department Heads - None
5. Items by the Town Manager: a.) The Board reviewed and signed the payroll and A/C warrants.
6. Items by the Board of Selectmen: a.) Janet discussed her thoughts on the three ordinances. She suggested the New Portland Elected Official Re-Call Ordinance only needed to be amended by removing the assessor, since this position is not an elected position. She recommended that the Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) Ordinance be recalled. She discussed the differences now with finding people to participate and volunteer vs. how it was not difficult to find volunteers back in the 90's. There was a brief discussion regarding the suggested repeal. The Board stated they could amend it to reflect anyone wishing to participate wouldn't need to take out papers. Janet would work on a draft for the next meeting. There was a brief discussion regarding the proposed ATV club. No decisions were made. David briefly shared that he most likely would be putting the proposed food cupboard at the library, he was just waiting on the okay.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm.

Remember...

- **Selectmen's Meeting**
1st Tuesday & 3rd Monday of each month6:30pm
- **New Portland Fire Department Meeting**
2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month6:30pm
- **Library Board of Trustees Meeting**
2nd Saturday of the month 9am
- **Planning Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of the month6:30pm
- **New Portland Water District**
2nd Wednesday of each month6:30pm
- **School Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of each month 6pm
- **New Portland Community Library**
Tuesday & Friday9:30am - 12pm
Wednesday 10am - 12pm & 3pm - 6pm
Thursday 3pm - 6pm
Saturday9am - 12pm
- **Kingfield-New Portland Transfer Station**
Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday 7:30am - 4:30pm
- **New Portland Post Office Customer Service Hours**
Monday - Friday7am - 9am & 2pm - 4pm
Saturday7am - 10:30 am

These minutes were approved by the Board at the January 7 meeting. smr

Selectman's Notes The annual Town meeting is only days away now. The town meeting is March 1, 2025 at 9:00 am at the Fire Station's Community Room. You will need to register as you enter this year to be able to vote at the Town Meeting. Only registered voters of the Town of New Portland are allowed to vote at the Town meeting. So arrive early enough to check in with the Town Clerk. Upon check-in, you will receive a colored piece of stock paper. When a question is ready for a vote you will raise the stock paper to vote. A hand gesture will not work. We look forward to seeing a big turnout, this is your Town get involved, come to the annual Town meeting.

On February 4, 2025 is our first selectman's meeting this month. At 6:30 pm we will be holding a brief public hearing on the three ordinances that will be on the Town Warrant, plus the ATV question. So if you did not come to the first public hearing on January 11, come ask us your questions. Remember you can always reach out to the selectmen, we will be happy to answer questions.

By now we are sure that you have heard that the Kingfield, New Portland Transfer Station has closed the demo container. The burn pile station has also been closed indefinitely. The cause for such a decision is because of a large expensive clean up around the area mandated by DEP. The price will be, when all bills arrive, around \$45,000. The trash container was leaking fluids and had been for awhile. The environmental hazmat company that did the clean-up was very expensive. So the only way to not impose the huge cost on to tax payers was to eliminate some of the services that the transfer station provided. Thus the demo container is down until probably July. Saving us all the hauling and tipping fees to offset the \$45,000 dollar clean-up cost. That being said we know this is a huge inconvenience to everyone, but the board at this time had no choice. The Transfer Station will continue taking everything else, cardboard, household trash, paper, electronics, news print, tires, metal, etc. You can take items to the Norridgewock landfill, called WM (Waste Management) Crossroads Landfill. Please call them first for cost and their rules. The phone number is 634-2719. On their web site it states that Saturday deliveries need advance notice. There is Casella Waste in Waterville. Again call first, phone 241-5040.

If you are wondering, the board of the Transfer Station consists of three selectmen from Kingfield, three selectmen from New Portland, and one county commissioner from Franklin County, representing the unorganized territories. The Town Manager from Kingfield is also present at meetings, since Kingfield does the accounting and paper work for the board.

We would like to thank the local snow mobile club, the Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers, for the work on barricades, signs, etc. on the Tannery Bridge. Let's all hope for some snow so they can enjoy a good ride.

We would also like to thank the Budget Committee for the great work on January 18. It is clear that we are all working to keep cost down for all tax payers. It takes a lot of work by the great office staff and the selectmen to try to keep those cost down.

Remember to vote for selectman on February 28 at the fire station. Thank you for reading our notes to you, and as always help your neighbor if needed. That's what a small town is all about. Take care of yourself, try to enjoy the rest of winter.

Submitted: Janet White, Ray Poulin, Dave Veilleux

Superintendent of Schools

January 20, 2025

Dear New Portland residents,

The new calendar year has not been uneventful. The second day back from the holiday break, the fire alarm went off at the Carrabec Community School late in the school day. We were quick in isolating the issue to determine we did not have a fire in the building. We had a shark-bite cap let go on the pipe that is part of the heating unit in the room that is used to house the heating oil tank for the building. The result of the cap letting go was the room filled with hot water creating a steam bath. The excessive steam tripped the alarm. When we reset the alarm, the steam in that area continued to set the alarm back off. Although Anson Fire Department personnel determined the building to be safe, with the alarm staying on, we arranged for a 20 minute early release. Our maintenance crew was able to pump out the water which had collected in the fuel safety pit and worked with a serviceman from Bob's cash fuel to isolate the pipe discharging hot water in the furnace room and properly capped the pipe in that room.

The Policy Committee met on January 15 and reviewed/ updated six policies. While our review schedule has us mostly working with required policies currently under instruction, we stepped back to a procedure for policy DJ - Bidding/Purchasing Requirements. Our federal review of the lunch program noted that the procedure for this policy was out of date with federal legislation from 2012. Using recommended updates from MSMA, the committee modified our procedure for bidding and purchasing. The full Board will review the changes at their monthly meeting in February.

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.

This Wednesday, the Buildings and Grounds Committee will be meeting to make final recommendations for which building repair projects should be included in the 2025-2026 budget. The committee will also be reviewing the idea of allowing communities within our district to use the Carrabec Community School as a warming shelter. We have invited members of Emergency Management Teams from each community to the meeting. This committee will ultimately make a recommendation to the full Board or the Policy Committee if it is determined that policies around the facility use present wording conflicts if the building is used by our towns.

Budget work will continue over the next few weeks so the Finance Committee can review an initial draft of the 2025-2026 budget. The Governor's budget continues 55% funding for education. The Finance Committee will review the budget draft with numbers from the State on funding to put together a budget to provide educational programs for the students in RSU 74.

Until my February report, please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about what is happening in your schools. Sincerely,

Submitted: Mark L. Campbell, Superintendent of Schools

School Board

The January 8 board meeting was held at Carrabec Community School. I saw some veggies, and I avoided them. I did not avoid the cookies.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjustments to the Agenda: There were none.

Minutes: The minutes of the December meeting were approved.

Presentation: Carla Franzose (finance secretary) introduced Jennifer Conners. Ms. Conners is an auditor, and she reviewed the RSU 74 audit with the board. I am

Kingfield Seniors Group

We had such a wonderful time at our last meeting. Food (as usual) and entertainment by Charlie Bruce playing his guitar and singing. He has a wonderful voice and his playing is really great! We always appreciate when our fellow seniors share their talents with us!

Our next meeting will be on Monday, February 3 at 12:00 pm at Western Mountains Baptist Church. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. My number is 207-628-4461. Hope to see you there!!!!

Submitted: Nanci Lehto Mahlmann

not sure I stayed entirely focused throughout the entire presentation, but I did write down some quotes that lead me to believe the report was positive. "No material weaknesses", "No significant deficiencies", "No internal control deficiencies", "Very clean audit" (This line was used twice.)

Nominations: Kimberly Pooler - CHS Special Ed Teacher; Julie Carr - CCS, Special Ed-Ed Tech 3; William Atwood - Maintenance

Superintendent Report: 1.) Mr. Campbell discussed the recent situation at CCS that led to students being dismissed roughly one half hour early. There was no danger, and the alarms are functional at CCS. The superintendent thanked the CCS staff and students for handling the situation efficiently and calmly. He thanked the maintenance staff, Brian Shamaly, Wendell Dunlap, and the fire department for their help with the situation. 2.) A draft calendar for 2025-26 has been created. It is important for the schools who send students to SCTC to have their respective calendars closely aligned. The calendars must not differ by more than five days. In 2025-26, the plan is to again have two student days the week of Thanksgiving and have two full weeks off around Christmas. The calendar has been shared with the Carrabec Education Association, so people can give input. The board will vote on the calendar at either the February or March meeting. 3.) Out of district placements are quite costly to the district. There are currently five students with out of district placements. This number could be rising in the near future. When the 2025-26 school year begins, it is possible the number of out of district placements will have reached ten.

Committees: The Buildings/Grounds Cmte meeting that was scheduled for next week has been moved to January 22. At the next Policy Committee meeting, the Superintendent Evaluation Policy will be examined. The policy that deals with Federal Procurement of Funds for the lunch program needs to be revised.

Admin Reports: Few of the administrators chose to add to their written reports. CCS Principal Geoffrey Case said that the ornaments at the board's table have been created by CCS students. He also commended on the CCS staff and students for how smoothly Tuesday afternoon went, despite the repeated fire alarms and sudden early departure.

Public Participation: No one spoke.

Policies, Second Reading: The second readings of two policies were approved: GBEC, Drug Free Workplace and GCOA, Supervision and Evaluation of Professional Staff.

Adjourn: The meeting ended at 6:44 pm.

Submitted: Dave Ela, President of Carrabec Teachers Association

New Portland Community Library

Happy February, New Portland!

February is the month of love, and we want to remind our patrons, supporters, and bakers how much we love you! I say this almost every issue, but I truly appreciate each of you and all you do to support your little library in the woods!

We hope you will show the library love on February 22. NPCL will have our first Book and Bake Sale of the year from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. We have many books from authors such as Dale Brown, Dan Brown, Clive Cussler, Jeffrey Deaver, Janet Evanovich, Sue Grafton, Sarah Graves, John Grisham, Elin Hilderbrand, J.A. Jance, Iris Johnson, Robert B. Parker, James, Patterson, J.D. Robb, Nora Roberts, and many more. We still have many children and young adult books available. All books are for sale by donation, meaning building your home library benefits you and the New Portland Community Library!

We also ask that you spread the love on Saturday, March 1 by attending the Town Meeting at 9:00 am. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the Town budget. The library needs your support! We are hoping for \$12,000, averaging at .37 cents per tax bill assessed at \$100,000. We ask that you believe in us to use these funds wisely and to bring events to the community.

On to exciting news! The NPCL is starting a Block Party Club thanks to the Dorothy Louise Kyler Grant and donations from local kids and individuals! The Block Party Club encourages creative chaos by allowing kids to get together and let their inner engineers run wild. Duplo, Lego, and Mega blocks are provided. Come and meet new friends and enjoy the library. The Block Party Club will meet on the first Saturday of each month from 10:00 – 11:00 am and every Wednesday from 10:00 – 11:00 am and 4:00 – 5:00 pm. Come to one or all! Kids only need to bring their imagination! *This is a self-directed playtime and parents are required to attend.*

February happenings: Every Friday from 10:00 – 11:00 am we will have story and craft time for younger children. All ages are welcome. Saturday, Feb. 1 Lego League 10:00 – 11:00 am and Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:00 am and 4:00 – 5:00 pm is Lego League. Saturday, Feb. 8 is our monthly board meeting. Feel free to join us at 9:00 am. Saturday, Feb. 8 and 22 from 9:00 to 11:30 am, Michelle is offering 15-minute Reiki sessions. Michelle generously gives any donations to the library. Tuesday, Feb. 11 from 9:30 - 11:30 am Scarlett DeShong, Somerset County's Digital Navigator, will join us to provide one-on-one tech support. Feel free to bring in your device whether Apple, Android, laptop, or tablet. She will be happy to help you out. Thursday, Feb. 13 join us at 6:00 pm for Book Club. Participants will discuss their thoughts regarding, Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. The group will also decide on their next book. FYI: There is no need to purchase books if you do not wish. Books are available at the NPCL thanks to Interlibrary lending. Feel free to bring a light refreshment to share. Saturday, Feb. 22 9:00 am – 1:00 pm the NPCL Book and Bake Sale. Computer class dates and times are TBD. Stay posted to our Facebook page for additional events.

Submitted: Mindy Newman, Library Director

New Portland Churches

New Portland Church news for February: February is usually a month for hibernation, but the New Portland Church has a busy schedule. On Sunday mornings at this time of year the weather can be unpredictable, so if you aren't sure whether church has been cancelled, please call Nan at 628-6061. Some of our members travel a distance to get to church, so we tend to be sensitive to the weather.

Because of bad weather we did cancel our January 1 Warming Wednesday, but we are going to try again on February 5 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Please join us for a light luncheon and a few hours of conversation and games. March 5 at 11:00 am – 1:00 pm we will gather again, weather permitting.

The church session meets on Wednesday, February 12 to discuss the business of the church and the annual meeting is also held this month. The annual meeting of the North New Portland Community Church will follow the church service on February 23. This meeting is preceded by a potluck lunch and generally gets rolling at about 1:00 pm over the dessert! All members and friends from the community are welcome to attend the annual meeting.

I apologize for having no list of ministers for the month of February. An updated list has not been completed for the month but rest assured those Sundays will have a capable pastor in the 'pulpit'.

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

Submitted: Nan Berry

We are moving along here at Western Mountains Baptist Church. We are now offering a new Bible study for moms! It is understandable that mothers, especially new moms with young children, have very limited time to themselves or to read the Bible! This class is being offered on Monday evenings from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. at our church. If you are interested and want more information, please contact Kalyn @ 407-765-9322.

We are also gearing up for our annual "Grill on the Hill". This is scheduled for February 16 at Gilmore Hill after church services. As you can see, winter has not slowed us down!!! For more information, please go to our website: www.westernmountainchurch.org or just come on by! Our church is growing, and we have lots of new families (especially with children) that would love to meet you!

Submitted: Nanci Lehto 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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	24 Town Office Closed Presidents Day Selectmen's Meeting - 6:30 pm	25 NPCL 9:30 am - noon Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	26 NPCL 10:00 am - noon & 3:00 - 6:00 pm	27 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	28 NPCL 9:30 am - noon	
16 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	17 Town Office Closed Presidents Day Selectmen's Meeting - 6:30 pm	18 NPCL 9:30 am - noon	19 NPCL 10:00 am - noon & 3:00 - 6:00 pm	20 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm Deadline for New Portlander 4:00 pm	21 NPCL 9:30 am - noon	22 NPCL 9 am - noon
9 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	10 NPCL 9:30 am - noon Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	11 NPCL 10:00 am - noon & 3:00 - 6:00 pm Water District Community Room 6:30 pm	12 NPCL 10:00 am - noon & 3:00 - 6:00 pm School Board Meeting CCS 6:00 pm Planning Board 6:30 pm	13 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	14 Valentine's Day NPCL 9:30 am - noon	15 NPCL 9 am - noon
2 Ground Hog's Day WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	3 Kingfield Seniors Group WMBC noon	4 NPCL 9:30 am - noon Selectmen's Meeting - 6:30 pm (Public Hearing)	5 NPCL 10:00 am - noon & 3:00 - 6:00 pm School Board Meeting CCS 6:00 pm Planning Board 6:30 pm	6 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	7 NPCL 9:30 am - noon	8 NPCL Trustees 9 am NPCL 9 am - noon
						1 NPCL 9 am - noon

NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2025

DOUG KEHR PHOTO

