



# NEW PORTLANDER

INFORMATION IS THE CURRENCY OF DEMOCRACY — THOMAS JEFFERSON

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DOUG KERR PHOTO

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

PUBLICATION VOLUME 31 • NUMBER 9 • MARCH 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](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

## 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 & Friday .....9:30am - 12pm  
Wednesday ..... 10am - 12pm & 3pm - 6pm  
Thursday .....3pm - 6pm  
Saturday.....9am - 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 - 10:30 am

## Reminder

**Annual Town Meeting, March 1 at 9:00 am  
in the fire station Community Room.**

## Superintendent of Schools

February 18, 2025

Dear New Portland Residents,

The weather pattern of snow Sundays and Thursdays has certainly helped bring our winter total snowfall near the yearly average over the past 3 weeks! It would be nice to get out and enjoy this snow base by taking off on a hike with snowshoes but with the consistently low temperatures and accompanied by high winds, I am happily enjoying the beauty of winter from inside the building!

The Policy Committee reviewed four policies this month and will be sending three of these policies for full Board review after minor changes. As well, the Board is sending forth a recommended form that should be completed when parents/ community members have concerns with resources found in the library and or being used in a course. The Board did not make any changes to Policy IHBG - Home Schooling as it still matched recommended wording from Maine School Management. The three with minor changes that now need to undergo a full Board review and two votes include Policy IHBGA- Homeschooling - Participation in School Programs, Policy IHCDA - Post-Secondary Enrollment Options, and Policy IJJ - Instructional and Library-Media Materials Selection. The new form that matches Policy IJJ is Policy IJJ -E Public Complaint About the Curriculum or Instructional Materials/Challenge of Instructional Materials.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee finished reviewing the needed work/repair lists for the district and asked Director of Operations, Chris Roux to budget for the replacement of carpets in both Solon Elementary and Garret Schenck School. The carpets are extremely worn and stretched creating unsafe conditions as the carpets have rolls/folds increasing the likelihood of staff and students to trip. The replacement flooring will either be tile or vinyl planking. The ideal new floor covering will not only be safer but also be easier to clean on a daily basis. As well the Director of Operations was asked to continue to explore options for installing a security system district wide that includes updated camera systems and swipe card entry systems.

If that moves forward it will likely be a separate budget line.

The last committee meeting was a meeting of the Finance Committee. Building budgets were shared as well as the budgets for Special Education, Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation. Special Education currently shows a \$400,000 increase for out-of-district instructional programs. By the time the committee meets again, the Negotiation Team will have met with the support staff. While data for salary increases are readily available for staff covered by the Agreement for teachers, the total salary lines are dependent on the new salaries negotiated for the support staff. A reminder that legislation passed last year requires that educational technician's minimum salary be \$18.31 per hour, and for all others covered under this agreement at \$16.85 per hour. Final budget for 2025-2026 will be voted on at the April monthly meeting.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Submitted: Mark L. Campbell, Superintendent of Schools*

## **School Board**

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The February 5 board meeting was held at Carrabec Community School. When Mr. Case walked in carrying vegetables, I was a bit chagrined. Then I discovered that he also had cookies. I was much happier. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjustments to the Agenda: Two nominations were added to the agenda.

Minutes: The minutes of the January board meeting were approved.

Presentation: There was no presentation.

Superintendent Report: Mr. Campbell did not add to his report.

Nominations: Maria Cirelli - ELL Ed Tech 3, CCS; Tyler McGlashing - Ed Tech 3, CHS

Resignation: Shawn Gross, maintenance

Student Report: The student rep, Dayna Labonte, commented on what has been happening at CHS. The basketball teams are Augusta bound. The Student Advisory Committee has been meeting. The Winter Formal was a success. Most students seemed to like this year's midterm schedule better than in past years. The students handled ALICE Training very well.

Admin Reports: Bruce Dostie was not present at the meeting. Scott Hall, Jean Butler, and Chris Roux chose not to add to their written reports. Geoffrey Case responded to a board member's question, and briefly addressed the CCS Strategic Plan. Grace Cram responded to a board member's question. She and the special ed directors of Bingham and Madison recently met to discuss regional programming

opportunities. Peter Campbell read a letter to the board. In the letter, he announced his decision to resign, effective July 31. He discussed what he felt were the accomplishments during his time at CHS. He also cited some areas where he felt improvements could be made. Board member David Royce commended Peter's performance at CHS. He also commended the work of the superintendent and Wendell Dunlap.

Committees: The Library/Technology Cmte met on January 8. The Policy Cmte met on January 15, and the Buildings & Grounds Committee met on January 22.

Public Participation: Wendell Dunlap, who has been subbing as a driver, inquired as to whether there is a board policy regarding the age in which a child can be dropped off at home if no adult is present. Board member Dallas Landry stated that he thought the superintendent communicates effectively with the communities.

Overnight Trip: The board approved a CHS Outdoor Leadership Ice Fishing Trip to Upper Roach Pond. The trip will be March 4-6.

Policies: The first reading of several policies were approved. Those policies included: Child Find, Individual Education Programs (IEPs), Curriculum Development and Adoption, Federal Procurement Manual, Supervision and Evaluation of the Superintendent

Executive Session: Administrative Contracts - When the board emerged, they voted to approve the administrator contract extensions and salaries which were discussed in the executive session.

Two More Executive Sessions: Two more executive sessions were on the agenda. The first was to discuss contract negotiations. The second was to discuss a legal matter. (Somewhat off topic, but "A Legal Matter" by The Who is a fine song.) I was told the board would not take any action following either executive session.

Adjournment: Since I departed during the executive sessions, I have no idea when the meeting ended.

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

## **New Portland Community Library**

Hello, New Portland. I hope you're enjoying the longer days and looking forward to the warmer weather that's headed our way. The library has added several new titles to our collection, and we encourage you to stop in and check them out. Literally! With that in mind, we are weeding through and deactivating unused patron cards. Any patron card not used inside the library since 2020 will be deactivated. If you use CloudLibrary but do not visit the library, no worries. We will ensure you still enjoy eBooks and Audiobooks.

We hope to see you Saturday, March 1 at the Town

**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.

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.

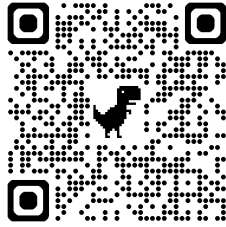
March 22 at 9:30 am, Roberta Libby will host an introductory class on herbal remedies. Class attendees will craft their own herbal tea that is beneficial in relieving the symptoms of respiratory illnesses. There is a small \$5 fee to cover Roberta's supply expenses.

Spaces are limited, so please register as soon as possible.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A44AAA72DABFDC61-55066242-introductory#/>

April 26, 2025, 10:00 am -12:00 pm we will have an appreciation lunch for all library supporters. We ask you to mark your calendars and join us. If you support the library through baking, donations, as a patron, or offer programming, we ask that you stop by and let us show our appreciation for you. Information will also be passed out concerning our yearly events.

Exciting things are happening at the library. Stay connected to NPCL as we are currently working on new programs and events for all ages! *March happenings:* Every Friday from 10:00 a -11:00 am we will have story and craft time for younger children. All ages are welcome. Saturday, March 1 Block Party Club 10:00 – 11:00 am and Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:00 am and 4:00 – 5:00 pm. Saturday, March 8 is our monthly board meeting. Feel free to join us at 9:00 am. Saturday, March 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, March 11, from 9:30 to 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. Saturday, March 22 9:30 – 11:30 am Introductory class to herbal remedies. This is a two hour course. \$3 fee or donation



is appreciated. *Thursday Book Club date TBD. Stay posted.* Participants will discuss their thoughts regarding, Louisa May Alcott's *A Long Fatal Love Chase*. 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. Google Sheet computer class dates and times are TBD. Introduction to Herbal Remedies and Tea making.

*Submitted: Mindy Newman, Library Director*

## New Portland Sno-Travelers

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

News: Both groomers have been out and broken trails. Trails are still in need of more snow.

A member mentioned the logging on Welcome Hill has finished, so the trail will need to be cleaned up some.

OLD BUSINESS: A representative from South Paw Sign Studios spoke to the club about having some sweatshirts made which would have our club logo on them. A motion was made, accepted, and approved to purchase 40 gray sweatshirts.

NEW BUSINESS: A discussion was held about purchasing two used groomers for the club. The club has the opportunity to buy two Prinoth Trooper groomers: one a 2009 and the other a 2010. After a description of the groomers and probable price range was given, a motion was made, seconded and accepted to have both groomers purchased when available at the discretion of the club president and treasurer. Another discussion was held about improving the ITS 84 trail from Friend's field toward West New Portland. It was decided we will work with the landowners next spring.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm. The next meeting will be March 8, starting at 6:30 pm.

The Kingfield Sno-Wanderers will be holding their annual public breakfast on Sunday, February 16, 8:00 – 10:00 am at the Kingfield Elementary School.

*Submitted: Joyce Knowles*

## Kingfield Seniors Group

Our next meeting for our seniors group will be on March 3. As usual, we will be meeting at Western Mountains Baptist Church on Rte 27 in New Portland at noon. Starting with a potluck and then our meeting. Our agenda is still in process! Just to remind everyone, you did NOT have to be a Kingfield resident. We have people who come from New Portland, Wilton, Farmington as well as Industry! So won't you come and bring friends and make NEW FRIENDS! Should you need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Nanci Lehto Mahlmann 207 628 4461. Come out of the cold and enjoy an afternoon of food and friendship!!!

*Submitted: Nanci Lehto Mahlmann*

## New Portland Churches

Come join us for services at 10:00 am on Sunday mornings. We have junior church on Sunday as well as Bible studies during the week.

Our "Grill on the Hill" had to be moved from our original date of February 16 (wicked snow storm). So please check our website for the new date. We are also gearing up for our Annual Cabin Fever Reliever! This is a fun time for everyone to meet and have a good time. There will be lots of activities for the kiddos! (Parents are asked to stay with their children).

Check out our website [www.westernmountainchurch.org](http://www.westernmountainchurch.org) to see what's going on. You can also call 207 265 2557. And please remember we are still providing meals through our Bridging the Gap program as well as our new ministry, "Serving our Seniors". Come and see, and see that the Lord is working!!!

*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
2 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	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 Meeting 9:00 am NPCL 9:00 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 3:00 - 6:00 pm	13 NPCL 9:30 am - noon	14 NPCL 9:30 am - noon	15 NPCL 9:00 am - noon
16 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	17 St. Patrick's 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 9:00 am - noon
23 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	24 NPCL 9:30 am - noon	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 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	28 NPCL 9:30 am - noon	29 NPCL 9:00 am - noon
30 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	31 NPCL 9:30 am - noon					