



NEW PORTLANDER

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Visit the Town of New Portland's web page at newportlandmaine.org

PUBLICATION VOLUME 32 • NUMBER 3 • SEPTEMBER 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: Lori Alyea

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: Stacie Rundlett - 491-8007

Announcements:

The Town Office will be closed September 1 in observance of Labor Day

New Portland Fair - September 12, 13, and 14

Selectmen

Selectmen's Notes: Here we are at the end of the summer months, "Wow! That went fast." As you get ready for the fall and the winter months, remember if you fall on hard times, there is a small food pantry located at our library.

Children start school soon. So, watch out for children near the end of their driveways and the stopped school buses along the roads.

Recently, the fire department received an insurance payment from a tractor trailer accident that happened a while back. With this payment we are having the fire station bay area repainted, the ceiling and the walls. This has not been done since we built the station. We are trying to stay up with maintenance.

We have ordered the gravel and salt for the winter roads. We will also be having the sand salt shed repaired; some of the salt has damaged the metal walls. So general maintenance is required.

We have also noticed that the playground equipment needs repainting and some general maintenance; we will be looking into that being done. If you have time to paint, let us know. We are always open to volunteers.

In just a couple of months we start preparing for next year's annual town meeting. Time moves quickly. We are doing our best to stay on top of things.

Thank you for reading our notes and take care of yourselves and your families.

Submitted: Selectmen - Janet White, Chairperson; Ray Poulin; Dave Veilleux

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for July 21, 2025

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Janet White, David Veilleux, Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett, Lori Alyea, Brian Rundlett, Josh Nunes, Pat Mitchell

1. Janet called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 month.....6:30pm
- **School Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of each month 6pm
- **New Portland Community Library**
Tuesday & Friday9:30am - 12pm
Wednesday 10am - 12pm & 3pm - 6pm
Thursday3pm - 6pm
Saturday.....9am - 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
Saturday.....7am - 10:30 am

2. The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Raymond motioned to accept the minutes as written, David seconded and all were in favor.
3. Open and Review Sealed Bids for 2025-2026 Winter Sand Bids: Janet White opened the four sealed bids. 1.) Hayden York-\$52,500; 2.) Josh Nunes- \$54,075; 3.) Jordan Excavation- \$62,440; 4.) Vining- \$57,575. The Board discussed the bids, and viewed a sample of sand from Josh Nunes. Raymond motioned to accept the bid from Josh Nunes in the amount of \$54,075, Janet seconded and all were in favor.
4. Department Heads:- Pat Mitchell, New Portland Road Commissioner, updated the Board on the culvert replacements, on the liquid calcium that was put down and that all of the FEMA projects were to be completed by the end of July, and were on schedule. There was a brief discussion on Millay Hill Road and the grading to be done.
5. Items by the Town Manager: a.) The Board reviewed and signed the payroll and A/P warrants. b.) There was a brief discussion regarding the KNTS and a New Portland customer. No decisions were made. The Board would share this information with the KNTS Board. c.) Stacie briefly updated the Board on the results of the recent MMA inspection. She will forward the report once she receives it.
6. Items by the Board of Selectmen: a.) There was a brief discussion regarding Somerset County Treasurer's office allowing two payments for County Tax Payments. New Portland wouldn't benefit from this as most of tax payments are received in the fall. b.) There was a brief discussion on signing a supportive letter for the Northern Borders Regional Commission, Local Development District. The Board authorized Stacie to sign the letter of support. c.) There were more discussions about Wire Bridge issues and the Board asked Stacie to find out from the town's attorney if there was something more permanent that could be done to deter this resident from going to the Wire Bridge area and making people uncomfortable.
7. Items by the Public: There was NONE

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board on August 5, 2025. smr

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for August 5, 2025

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Janet White, David Veilleux, Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett, Lori Alyea, David and Lynn Cary, Kip Poulin

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, David seconded and all were in favor.
3. Department Heads: Kip Poulin and the Board discussed upcoming work to be done on the fire trucks and building.
4. Items by the Town Manager: The Board reviewed and signed the payroll and A/P warrants.
5. Items by the Board of Selectmen: a.) The Board reviewed and signed the commitment paperwork. b.) Janet discussed with the Board about having KVCOG attend a meeting to discuss the process of renewing the comprehensive plan. Stacie would reach out to KVCOG. c.) The Board moved the meeting to the Sand Salt Shed to review repairs that are needed.
6. Items by the Public- David Cary discussed with the Board he would like discuss with them options for residents to license their vehicles or any other town business on Fridays. No decisions were made.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board at the August 18 meeting. smr

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

Kingfield Seniors Group

Well, summer has almost ended. We are now gearing up for our fall and winter schedules. Our next meeting will be on Monday, September 8. As usual, it will be held at noon at the Western Mountains Baptist Church. One of our own, Michael Kankainen will be presenting! I am always excited to hear the stories of what it was like growing up in Maine - where people came from, what happened during their lifetime and the differences that are present today. So many of our seniors can relate. As a "flatlander" lol, I am learning a lot.

Come, make friends, reconnect with old friends and enjoy life! You are all welcome whether you live in Kingfield, New Portland, Salem, Wilton. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me: Nanci Lehto Mahlmann 207 628 4461.

Submitted: Nanci Lehto Mahlmann

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.

Town Manager

The Town Office will be closed Monday, September 1 in observance of Labor Day.

Superintendent of Schools

August 19, 2025

Dear Residents of New Portland: I just met with the Class of 2025 new staff to welcome them to the district. It is the smallest new group of staff members I have stood before which speaks volumes for the district. Next week we begin with the entire staff on Monday and Tuesday with students returning next Wednesday.

It has been a relatively quiet month. The Board met the first Wednesday with a relatively short agenda. Troy Dunphy was re-elected as chair and Kevin Sousa as vice chair. The administrative team spoke briefly on safety protocols. Topics included steps taken when threats are made, when a student becomes dysregulated, and ALICE (the district's response to an armed/agitated intruder). As well, the link on the district website under Parents/Community where parents will find information about these safety protocols. This link can be found here. Please do not hesitate to contact me or the Technology Department if you need further assistance with this link.

As always, the Board meets the first Wednesday of each month. Sub-committee meetings of the Board begin the third Wednesday in September. Both of these meeting lists may be found on the website under the tab "Board." Respectfully...

Submitted: Mark L. Campbell, Superintendent of Schools

School Board

The August 6 board meeting was held at CCS. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjustments to the Agenda: There were four adjustments to the agenda. Three dealt with sports teams. The other was the second reading of a policy.

Board Chair: Troy Dunphy was re-elected board chair for 2025-2026. All members but one voted in favor of Mr. Dunphy.

Board Vice-Chair: Kevin Sousa was re-elected board vice-chair for 2025-2026. All members but one voted in favor of Mr. Sousa.

Minutes: The minutes of the July 17 special board meeting were approved.

Student Handbooks: Student handbooks for each of the four schools had been shared with the board prior to the meeting. Board members commented on the handbooks. Some thought that the handbooks were better overall than they had been in the past. Included in the online edition of the handbooks are links to district policies. Some of the links didn't work, and that will be addressed. There was a

sense from one board member that the handbooks might "need some love". A question was raised regarding whether students actually read the handbooks, as they are quite lengthy. There was discussion of the board not only taking a closer look at the handbooks in the future, but also re-focusing on the board's goals, the district's strategic plan, etc.

Presentations: Mr. Case spoke to the board about the steps taken when dealing with a dysregulated student. In some cases, it may be necessary to remove the student from the room. Other times, it may be best to remove the other students from the room (a room clearing). After that, there may be a debrief, not only with the dysregulated student, but also with the classmates who may have been impacted. Also, when the situation has de-escalated, admin and staff will meet and attempt to determine what triggered the student's dysregulation. In extreme situations, physical intervention or seclusion may be needed. There will be clearly defined protocols to specify when such measures will be appropriate. In cases where a student makes a threat, a determination will be made as to whether the threat was credible. Even if the threat is deemed to not be credible, families will be alerted of what took place. Mr. Dostie and Mr. Roux briefly spoke to the board about lock-in, lock-out, lockdown, etc, and how dangerous/threatening situations will be handled. Mr. Hall displayed the RSU 74 website to the board. He showed them where community members can find information online regarding school safety, ALICE Training, etc. It can be found under the Parent/Community tab.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Campbell added a bit to the written report that he previously submitted to the board. Work is being done to repair the roof over the entryway of GS. Following a DEP inspection, work has been done to replace the spill bucket and remove the diesel pump at CHS.

Resignation: Jean Butler: Principal, GS/Solon. Mr. Campbell stated Jean's departure represents a "tremendous loss to the district". He said he was "amazed when she sent ... the list" of all the things that she did, and he wasn't sure how she found time to do it all over the years.

Nomination: Brooke Welch: Special Ed/Ed Tech One, CCS

Admin Reports: Members of the admin team did not give reports, but board members asked a few questions and made some comments. A board member commended Scott Hall for his goal to get laptops out to students on day one. Responding to a question, Chris Roux stated that keyless entry will not be up and running in all buildings in time for the first day of school. Also, a board member urged Mr. Roux to direct his staff not to mow lawns at 5:00 am.

Committees: There was no committee report.

Public Participation: Tim White of Embden spoke. He said that he is a 67 year old veteran who has applied to be a substitute teacher, but has been denied. He was interested to know the reason why, and he speculated that it could be due to retaliation. He indicated that he might file a complaint with the state of Maine.

Maine School Board Association Conference: The board voted to make Eric Ewing the delegate and Laura Layman the alternate.

GS Fourth Grade Teacher: The board voted to hire Kayla Starr.

Sports: The board voted to allow a.) Madison athletes to be part of the CHS boys' soccer team, b.) CHS athletes to be part of the Madison football team, c.) CHS athletes to be part of the Madison cheering squad.

Policy: Policy JJIC, which deals with Academic Eligibility for Athletics, was approved for second reading.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Submitted: Dave Ela, President of Carrabec Teachers Association

Animal Control Officer

This is a friendly reminder about licensing your dog(s).

Municipal Duties and Responsibilities in the Regulation of Animals: State law imposes several duties upon municipalities with regard to the licensing, keeping, and regulation of animals. See 7 M.R.S. §§ 3901 to 3954. These duties largely rest with the clerk and animal control officer ("ACO"), but other municipal officials also have a role to play in animal control and may be held accountable if they neglect or fail to act when required by law.

Dog Licensing: A dog may not be kept in the State of Maine unless the dog has been licensed by its owner or keeper in accordance with State law. 7 M.R.S. § 3921. Municipalities are responsible for administering the State license requirement. Municipal clerks are the ones tasked with issuing the licenses, while ACOs are tasked with enforcing violations.

I wanted to bring these laws to everyone's attention as the Deputy Town Clerk has gone through the dog registrations from previous years, and there is a large number of people who haven't licensed their dog(s). As well as a large number of people who live in town who have never licensed their dog(s). So with that being said, starting October 15 residents can come into the office and license their dogs for 2026. We will also be putting a mail in form in the October *New Portlander*, so you can complete this task via the mail. You will have until January 31, 2026 to do this, and after that letters will be mailed out notifying those who have not done so that there will be late fees, or if you have never licensed your dog and the dog is more than six (6) months old, you too will get a letter informing you that you need to license your dog. If you are new to town and you have already licensed your dog in another town, please come to the office with your information, and we can transfer your license to New Portland. If you have a dog at your place of residence here in New Portland that has been there more than seven (7) days you too need to license said dog. We as a town need to do our best to follow the State of Maine's regulations and laws. Licensing your dog ensures that your dog has been properly vaccinated.

So please take note and if you haven't licensed your dog, we have our list going and to avoid hearing from us please keep this information in mind and license your dog(s). Thank you in advance.

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett-ACO

Lexington Highland Historical Society

The Lexington Highland Historical Society will hold a bake sale and lawn sale on August 30, 2025, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Lexington Highland Historical Museum located at 3 Back Road, Lexington Twp.. The bake sale will be on the front porch of the museum. Table space for the lawn sale in the front yard can be purchased for \$10. Please contact Jim Taylor (628 2762) or Linda Miller (628 3684) for more information or to reserve a table spot.

Submitted: Jim Taylor, President LHHS

New Portland Community Library

Hello, New Portland! Summer is winding down, and so is our Summer Reading Program. Thank you to everyone who brought their kiddos and to the individuals who volunteered their time and efforts to make the program a success.

A special thanks to all of our volunteers, bakers, donors, and bikers for making the UBM fundraiser a success. When it was all said and done, we brought in \$917!! Our best year yet. It's always a fun time at UBM, and we look forward to doing it again next year.

Currently, the StoryWalk Trail is closed due to poison ivy. Please stay off the trail until the Somerset Woods Trustees address the issue. We plan to update the story this fall and add a mailbox with a sign-in journal. We would love to know how many people are enjoying it. As soon as it opens up, we will let you know on Facebook.

Last year, the library held its first Calendar Raffle. It was a huge success, so we are doing it again this November. We are currently collecting prizes and have several new items this year. Tickets go on sale in mid-September. Tickets are available at the library, or you might find them on bulletin boards around town. Feel free to mail them or bring them in person. No online tickets will be sold.

The New Portland Community Give and Take Food Cupboard is full. It is located outside the library and is available to *anyone!* Please take what you need, as you need it. Add to the cupboard, as you can. There is plenty of food for those in our community who have a need! *No judgement, just food!*

September 6 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, we will have a sewing class for ages 10 and up. No supplies required. Participants are making a coin purse.

Have you considered becoming a volunteer? Stop in on September 11 at 6:00 pm and join our board meeting to see how you can help.

The New Portland Fair is quickly approaching. Keep an eye out for our booth on September 13 and 14. Our Friday Homeschool Hangout group is working on a few crafts to sell. They are trying to raise money for the children's programming in 2026. Please consider supporting them in

their efforts. Raffle items are available! We have a children's picnic table donated by Mr. Dave Cary, a basket with local goodies, and a kids' adventure backpack and book set. Calendar Raffle tickets are also available.

Also, on September 17 at 4:30 pm, Denise Gray will be hosting a Pebble and Glass Art class in the Community Room. There's plenty of room available. Sign up online by scanning the QR code or stop in the library to reserve your spot. Cost is \$5 to cover her supplies.

Our beloved therapy dog, Finn, will be at the library on September 20 from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm. Stop by and read a book to him. This is a great opportunity for new or struggling readers to build confidence and find joy in reading. Finn only listens and never judges!

Michelle will have complementary Reiki on Saturday, September 27 from 9:00 am – 11:30 am. Any donations made, Michelle will gift to the library. Her services brought in \$45 to the library in August! We appreciate Michelle!

Fiber Arts is *cancelled* this month. Every Tuesday, 9:30 – 11:30 am, Scarlett offers *free* tech help. Every Wednesday, 4:00 – 5:00 pm is Block Party Club. Book Club will meet in September with date TBD.

Upcoming Events: October 11 at 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, Book and Bake Sale at the library; October 25 at 12:00 – 2:00 pm, Frankenstuffy for All Ages; November 1- 30 is the Daily Calendar Raffle Drawing / Daily on Facebook; November 8, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, Craft Fair, Book & Bake Sale; November 23 Make, Take & Bake an Apple Pie (Make, Take, & Bake was a hit last year. 20 pies were made by kids for their families to enjoy over Thanksgiving. If you would like to donate supplies or a monetary gift, please call the library – 207-628-6561.)

We hope to see you soon!

Submitted: Mindy Newman, Library Director

New Portland Churches

After a very hot summer we are finally seeing some cooler days. It's a relief. Autumn is on its way. The colors will start to change, and maybe we'll get some more, much needed, rain.

Summer was busy for everyone. The congregation hosted two successful MATE Housing Ministry groups. Both groups are repeat mission groups. Our friends from Flemington Presbyterian in New Jersey have been coming every year for over 40 years! Grace Church from the Boston area has been coming long enough for us to see some pretty young kids go off to college! We appreciate their care and the help they give our communities. And we hope to see them again next year!

Another successful project taken on by one of the congregation members this summer was the addition of a returnable can/bottle drop box along Hancock Pond Road in front of the church. Many thanks to all who have donated cans this summer. And for anyone who would like to donate cans, the box will be in place until later in the fall, then removed for winter.

In appreciation for our community and our wonderful neighbors, both from the area and from away, we will be having an ice cream social on September 7. The details are in a separate article in this newsletter. We hope to see you there.

The following is the list of ministers who will be joining us for the month of September. September 7 – TBA, September 14 - Doug Dunlap, September 21 - Debby Bliss Bujnocki, September 28 - Communion Sunday, Stan Wheeler. Services will be held in the sanctuary until the weather becomes too chilly, after which we will move to the comfortably heated meeting room attached to the church, probably sometime in October. Coffee hour begins at 10:30 am followed by worship at 11:00 am.

Respectfully...

Submitted: Nan Berry

Western Mountain Baptist Church

Baptisms: We are a growing church!! In July, we had four people baptized, and another four people baptized in August.

Bridging the Gap: Our picnic was wonderful! 51 seniors enjoyed fellowship and good food.

Fall is quickly approaching, and our plate is full! September 9 and 23 is our Ladies Fellowship meeting. It starts at 1:00 pm in the church. Pat Sanders is the coordinator and can be reached at 207 265-6533. Men's Fellowship and Men's Breakfast - Men, you have not been forgotten! If you would like to grow in your faith as well as share fellowship with other men, there is a bible study just for you. Every Monday at 6:30 pm we have Men's Bible Study with Jean Boucher as the coordinator. This is a great opportunity to learn and grow as Godly men! Also, the first Saturday of the month at 8:00 AM we have MEN'S BREAKFAST!! Let me tell you that there is no shortage of eggs, bacon etc.....

On a more serious note, Al Anon has started meeting at our church on Friday mornings from 10:30 - 11:30 am. This is not a church sponsored function. We hope anyone who has a family member, spouse or close friend will come to learn how to deal with this situation. You need not be embarrassed or feel isolated in this struggle. There is always light at the end of the tunnel! Pat Pray is the coordinator of this program and can be reached at 207 265-6061. THIS IS A STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL PROGRAM.

Submitted: Nanci Lehto Mahlmann

Announcement

Ice Cream Social: A free ice cream social will be provided for the community at the New Portland Community Church! Please bring your family and friends to enjoy an ice cream sundae on us! The event will be held at the North New Portland Church located on the Hancock Pond Road. The time for this social is from 1:00 – 3:00 pm on Saturday, September 7 or until we run out of ice cream! Please join us for a good ol' "End of the Summer" gathering. You're only required to bring your smiling faces. Thank you for all your bottle and can donations!

Submitted: George Arab



The New Portlander

Established July 1994

901 River Road
New Portland, Maine 04961

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Town Office closed Labor Day	2 Selectmen's Meeting - 6:30 pm NPCL 9:30 am - noon	3 NPCL 10:00 am - noon & 3:00 - 6:00 pm School Board 6:00 pm School Board 6:30 pm	4 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	5 NPCL 9:00 am - noon	6 NPCL 9:00 am - noon	
7 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	8 Kingfield Seniors Group WMBC noon	9 NPCL 9:30 am - noon Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	10 NPCL 10:00 am - noon & 3:00 - 6:00 pm New Portland Water District 6:30 pm	11 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	12 New Portland Fair	13 NPCL Trustees Meeting 9:00 am NPCL 9:00 am - noon New Portland Fair
14 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am New Portland Fair	15 Selectmen's Meeting - 6:30 pm	16 NPCL 9:00 am - noon	17 NPCL 10:00 am - noon & 3:00 - 6:00 pm	18 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	19	20 NPCL 9:00 am - noon Deadline for <i>New Portlander</i> 4:00 pm
21 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	22	23 NPCL 9:30 am - noon Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	24 NPCL 10:00 am - noon & 3:00 - 6:00 pm	25 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	26	27 NPCL 9:00 am - noon
28 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	29	30 NPCL 9:00 am - noon				

NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2025



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