



NEW PORTLANDER

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

PUBLICATION VOLUME 32 • NUMBER 9 • MARCH 1, 2026

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: Stacie Rundlett

Email..... newportlandtownmanager@gmail.com

Deputy Town Manager: Lori Alyea

Email..... townofnewportland@gmail.com
Office hours: Same as the Town office hours

Code Enforcement Officer: Jeff Drew - 207-453-4258 ext 0

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

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 & Friday9:00am - 12pm
Wednesday3pm - 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

Selectmen

Selectmen's Notes: It's town meeting time!! Please join us at the annual town meeting. It will be held at the town's fire station, at 9:00 am on March 7, 2026.

Again, this year please come a little early so you can get your voting card. You must be a registered voter of the Town of New Portland to vote at the annual town meeting. You will be handed a colored card with which to vote.

Also, remember that March 6, 2026 is voting day for town officials. This is also held at the towns fire station. Voting hours are 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

We look forward to seeing you all. Please be respectful to all at the meeting.

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

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes: January 19, 2026

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Janet White, David Veilleux, Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett, Lori Alyea, Pat Mitchell, James Reinhard, Tom Bossie, Brian Rundlett, David Reed, Joe Lattin, Brent Davenport, Gabe Clark

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: Pat Mitchell updated the board on his letter for the annual town report. He updated everyone on his progress on finding a trailer to haul a spreader. He will continue to look for equipment to meet our needs. Janet talked about a vehicle policy she is preparing.
4. Items by the Town Manager: a.) The board reviewed and signed the payroll and A/P warrants. b.) The board reviewed and signed treasurer's reports from 2025.
5. Items by the Board of Selectmen: There was a discussion regarding having a separate line item on the annual town warrant for an additional

\$10,000.00 for the addition to the town office. This will cover any costs that the grant and the town's grant matching funds don't cover. Janet motioned to enter into an executive session at 7:48 pm. Raymond seconded and all were in favor. The board entered back into public session of the meeting at 8:12 pm. The board asked Stacie to schedule another public hearing on January 27 at 6:30 pm regarding the purchase of the 2024 Ford F550 and then a special town meeting to follow directly afterwards. Stacie would make sure that everything was in place to do these things.

6. Items by the Public: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board at the February 3 meeting. smr

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

Announcements

Stepping into Spirit A circle for like-minded souls on the path of growth and self-discovery.

Stepping into Spirit is a welcoming community circle where each person is invited to share, ask questions, or simply absorb. Together, we explore the experiences that shape our lives more than we realize, and look at how the world, and our own stories, have influenced the way we move through life.

In previous gatherings, we've discussed:

- How the clock and modern schedules disrupt our natural rhythm
- The chakra energy system and how the body holds stress and pain
- Personal limitations and how the world teaches us to shrink for safety

Each gathering flows with the needs of those who attend, and may include a gentle guided meditation to support grounding, clarity, and inner reflection.

What attendees have shared:

- "I've learned to cultivate mindfulness, gratitude, and compassion, which has enriched my life."
- "The circle has allowed me to step into alignment with parts of myself I had forgotten."
- "I feel so much more in touch with myself."

Date: March 24, Time: 6:00–7:30 pm, Location: New Portland Community Library

Suggested Donation: \$10 minimum. A portion of each donation supports the New Portland Community Library.

Facilitated by Donna Churchill, spiritual intuitive and guide.

To RSVP or learn more: Call 207-399-1213 or email decorles@hotmail.com

Submitted: Donna Churchill

Kingfield Seniors Group

It's been a long, tough winter! Thankfully the church where we meet has been warm and toasty. Last month we had the pleasure of Charile Bruce entertaining us with his guitar. This coming month, Thrive will be playing/entertaining us.

As usual, our meeting is held at the Western Mountains Baptist Church located on rte 27N just outside of Kingfield. We start our meeting at 12:00 pm with a potluck.

Should you need further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, Nanci Lehto Mahlmann at 207-628-4461. Looking forward to seeing you!!

Submitted: Nanci Lehto Mahlmann

Superintendent RSU 74

February 18, 2026

Dear Residents of New Portland:

Quiet is sometimes a good thing and overall the month has been relatively quiet. Since my last letter, several sub committees have met, but most of the discussions have not resulted in information I can share or feel is incomplete and shouldn't be shared at this time.

I will share that at the February meeting of the directors, the vote was unanimous to authorize the superintendent to enter into an agreement with Affinity Lighting out of New Hampshire to completely replace all lighting fixtures in our schools. State legislation has mandated schools to replace incandescent lights due to the gases in these fixtures that were deemed harmful to nature if not properly

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.

disposed of. Bottom line, replacement parts/bulbs for the current fixtures can no longer be stocked in Maine thereby forcing this decision. The presentation by Affinity was on the cost savings to the district for a complete transition to led lighting. Efficiency Maine has significant rebates for this type of replacement plan. Affinity in conjunction with Efficiency Maine proposed a plan that will reduce our electricity consumption to permit the payment for the projects over a 7-year period. Unless our providers increase their rates, we should not see any additional costs in proposed budgets because of this project.

The negotiations sub-committee has started negotiating a new agreement with the teachers' association. The talks are in initial phases. I will keep you updated on progress as I can.

The policy committee met. The committee reviewed Policy BCA Board Member Ethics and Policy BCB Board Member Conflict of Interest and felt the current wording was still appropriate choosing not to send either to the full board. The committee will recommend to the full board to eliminate three policies around sub-committees for finance, policy, and buildings and grounds and recommend replacing those three with Policy BDE Board Standing Committees which will encompass all nine sub-committees of the RSU 74 Board of Directors.

The finance committee met to review initial expenditures numbers for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Salary increases and insurance premium increases are driving factors for the bottom line increase. We will not have final numbers on either until the negotiations with the teachers are completed for salaries and until we receive notice from our health insurance provider what our rate increase will be. Our next meeting is next week where the board will begin to look at the revenue end of the budget. The changes to the funding formula have provided additional funds for the district, but it remains too early in the process to determine what the final line to the taxpayers will be. Again, that information will be passed along as all factors impacting the bottom line are determined.

The RSU 74 Board is scheduled to hold their April meeting (4/1/26) in New Portland. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions prior to that meeting. Sincerely...

Submitted: Mark. L. Campbell, Superintendent of Schools

School Board

The February board meeting was held at Carrabec Community School. The food options included water

and granola bars. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 7 board meeting were approved.

Presentation: There was no presentation.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Campbell added a bit to his written report. Looking at the financial statements through January 31, things seem to be in very good shape. Scott Hall created a new series of spreadsheets which should make it more efficient to create the 2026-27 budget. The superintendent asked the board for feedback on the district's mission statement and strategic plan. Aside from changing a word or two, board members seemed happy with the mission statement. The strategic plan will be examined at an upcoming Policy Committee meeting. The auditor will present at the next board meeting. Mr. Campbell mentioned the recent elementary band/chorus production. He noted the large crowd size, and he praised the work that Mrs. Burke-Cinsov. Board member Georgie Manzer spoke about the Jason Tardy anti-bullying presentation that took place in January. She also mentioned the crowd and was supportive of Mr. Tardy and his message.

Appointment: Tori MacDonald - CCS track

Reports: Scott Hall, Jean Butler, and Chris Roux chose not to add to their written reports. Bruce Dostie and Rachel Merrill were absent, as was the student board rep. They were attending a CHS basketball game. Geoff Case referenced the Jason Tardy performance. A board member congratulated Mr. Case on the news that CCS will be getting out of Tier Three status. Tammy Wyman said that the district has had some promising interviews to find candidates to fill Nicki Shamaly's position.

Committees: The Policy Committee met on January 14. The Buildings/Grounds Committee met the same day. The board's Negotiations Committee met on January 28.

Public Participation: No one spoke.

Lights: The board voted to spend \$533,051 for new lights. As discussed at the January meeting, this was the result of a state mandate. The hope is that due to rebates from Efficiency Maine and energy savings, the money saved will outweigh the costs after seven or eight years.

Rubbish: The board voted to approve the bid from Somerset Disposal for 2026-2029.

Plowing/Snow Removal: The board voted to approve the bid from Partridge & Kids for 2026-2029.

Two Buses: The board approved the bids for two buses from W.C. Cressy & Son.

2026-2027 Calendar: The board approved the draft of the 2026-27 calendar. No changes were made. As

always, the need for schools sending students to SCTC to have similar calendars was a factor in creating the RSU 74 calendar.

Executive Session: The final agenda item, other than adjournment, was an executive session to discuss negotiations. No discussion or action was expected at the conclusion.

The next school board meeting will be held on March 4 at the Embden Community Center.

Submitted: Dave Ela, President of Carrabec Teachers Association

New Portland Churches

New Portland Church News: We have had some wonderful bluebird days in the last month, and we are looking forward to more days like that in March. Great for skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and just being out for a walk enjoying the sun. Experience all that March has to offer before the snow completely (or mostly) goes away in April.

There are a few things on the calendar for March, and the first is our Warming Wednesday on March 4 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. In February we enjoyed four different soups for our Warming Wednesday gathering. They were all excellent! We also enjoyed four little children who came with their parents for some community time. It was fun to have toddler energy and excitement busting about the building! We are looking forward to sharing a meal and conversation with community members on March 4.

March 29 is Palm Sunday. It is also the fifth Sunday of the month, and that means "SuperSunday"! There will be no service at the New Portland Church on March 29. We will be meeting in Farmington at the Fairbanks Union Church to share in a combined worship service. This is a participatory service with contributions from the congregation in songs, poetry, stories and readings. Please note that this service will be at 10:00 am. As a special treat, there will be a slide show of Anne Smith's 2025 trip to India immediately following the service.

As always, we would love to see you at coffee hour at 10:30am with worship following at 11am unless otherwise noted in the schedule. If you have any questions about whether a worship service, or Wednesday luncheon, will be cancelled please call Nan at 628-6061.

The list of ministers for the month of March:
March 1 – Pastor MaryEllen Royce; March 8 – Drew Goodridge; March 15 – Debby Bliss Bujnocki; March 22 [Communion] – Rev. Stan Wheeler; March 29 - Palm

Sunday, 10:00 am at Fairbanks Union Church – Pastor MaryEllen Royce

As a reminder, Easter Sunday is April 5.
Respectfully...

Submitted: Nan Berry

Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers

The February meeting was called to order with five members present.

At the beginning of the meeting, a member of the North Anson Masons talked to the club about the Masons' mission to collaborate with the community on ideas on how they can help organizations.

The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Updates from treasurer: The club received a letter stating the tax identification number we have is no longer valid. So we will have to apply for a new number, then resubmit paperwork to get sales tax exemption status from the state. The treasurer also checked with a local bank and was told at this point they do not issue credit cards to non profits yet.

Trail Master: Trail master reported trails are really good considering the amount of snow we have had. He wanted to thank all of our groomer operators for their hard work.

New Business: A discussion was held about ways to show a club member our appreciation for all of the work he has done to keep the groomers and drags running. The president will talk to this person.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, March 14, 6:30 pm, at the fire station meeting room.

Submitted: Joyce Knowles





The New Portlander

Established July 1994

901 River Road
New Portland, Maine 04961

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NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	2 Kingfield Seniors Group WMBC noon	3 NPCL 9:00 am - noon Selectmen's Meeting Town Office 6:30 pm	4 Warming Wednesday 11:00 am - 1:00 pm School Board 6:00 pm Embden Community Building Planning Board 6:30 pm	5 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	6 MUNICIPAL VOTE Community Room 10:00 am - 6:00 pm	7 Annual Town Meeting Fire Station 9:00 am NPCL 9:00 am - noon
8 Daylight Saving Time WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	9 NPCL 9:00 am - noon Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	10 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm New Portland Water District 6:30 pm	11 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	12 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	13 NPCL Trustees Meeting 9:00 am NPCL 9:00 am - noon Wire Bridge 5th-Trawlers 6:30 pm Meeting Room	14 NPCL 9:00 am - noon
15 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	16 Selectmen's Meeting Town Office 6:30	17 St Patrick's Day NPCL 9:00 am - noon	18 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	19 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	20 NPCL 9:00 am - noon	21 NPCL 9:00 am - noon
22 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	23 NPCL 9:00 am - noon	24 Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	25 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	26 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	27 NPCL 9:00 am - noon	28 NPCL 9:00 am - noon
29 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:00 am at Fairbanks	30 NPCL 9:00 am - noon	31 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	1 NPCL 9:00 am - noon	2 NPCL 9:00 am - noon	3 NPCL 9:00 am - noon	4 NPCL 9:00 am - noon

DOUG KEHR PHOTO

