



NEW PORTLANDER



INFORMATION IS THE CURRENCY OF DEMOCRACY — THOMAS JEFFERSON

PUBLICATION VOLUME 16 NUMBER 7

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

FEBRUARY 1, 2010

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The Town Office hours are as follows:

Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett 628-4441

Tax collecting, registrations, hunting & fishing licenses

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 11:00 am - 5:00 pm
Thursday 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm
First Saturday of each month 8:00 am - noon

Town Clerk: Becky Taylor

Vital statistics & dog licensing

Monday 11:00 am - 2:00 pm & 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Thursday 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
First Saturday of each month 8:00 am - 11:00 am

CEO:

First and third Tuesday 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

E-mail for town business: nwprtld@somtel.com

The Town of New Portland is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.

Remember...

- **Selectmen's Meeting**
1st Tuesday of each month at the Town Office at 6:00 pm
- **New Portland Fire Department Meeting**
2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm
- **MAC Meeting**
3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 pm
- **NP Community Library Hours:**
Mon, Wed, Thurs 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - noon
- **Library Board of Trustees Meeting**
2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm
- **Planning Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm
- **New Portland Water District**
2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm
- **School Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm
- **Wire Bridge Thrift Shop** open every Saturday
- **Firemen's Auxiliary**
3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm

New Portlander deadline is February 24 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: bigd@tdstelme.net**

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

Selectmen

Minutes Selectmen's Meeting - January 5, 2010

Present: Bobby Dunphy, Gary Agren, Janet White, Lorie Agren, Douglas Archer, Stacie Rundlett, Becky Taylor, Maynard Handrahan.

Meeting called to order 6:07 pm

Gary Agren asked Stacie if a fax was received; he is waiting for a quote on slipline culverts. There was a discussion about culverts and requirements with new guidelines from the state. The discussion included increase in costs for the town with the new guidelines. Bobby will be emailing the state guidelines to the town so we have that information documented. Gary brought to the boards' attention his intentions for the Hancock Pond Road. He informs the board he believes it should be repaired properly to make it more safe for traffic. He also brings to the boards' attention they may need to revise their way of thinking when raising money for the summer road budget due to increasing costs to maintain the roads.

Bobby discussed with the board that he would be unable to attend any budget meetings in the upcoming week because he was going out of town. He approached the board regarding an increase in annual stipend for Code Enforcement Officer. He was requesting an increase of \$1000.00, meaning from \$2500.00 annually to \$3500.00. He discussed with the board he has been maintaining regular office hours every other week as CEO and also out of office hours. He stated to the board he is also the Health Officer, EMA Director. He does not charge mileage to do site reviews. There was some discussion of all the work Bobby was involved in over the past year. The board will take his request into consideration. Gary compliments Bobby with his quick attention to matters when Gary has to call him. Bobby stated that he would still continue to do his work even if he did not get an increase.

Becky discussed with the board that her office is running smoothly.

Kip was not present due to a fire.

Stacie informs the board all outstanding taxes have either been paid or have made payment arrangements with the town. Janet asked about the status of a quitclaim deed. Stacie informs her the office is in the process of filing the quitclaim deed with Somerset County Registry of Deeds. Stacie informed the board about the estimates the board had asked for regarding an addition to the building for proper storage of town records. The one written estimate was for \$7000.00. Maynard Handrahan was present to discuss with the select board his views on the proposed addition. He informed the board from a citizen's point of view a small addition would be a waste of money. The board asks for his opinion on this matter. He suggests the town do a much larger addition to meet all needs of the town, not just storage issues. A larger addition would enable the town to have a substantial area for town meetings, and the board agreed with this due to the loss of Central Elementary School. There was some discussion of possible options and rough costs for the different options. He also informed the board the small addition about which the board had originally inquired, he agreed it would be around the \$7000.00 estimate that Stacie had received from another contractor. There was more discussion on the different options. Janet asks Stacie to check on loan interests for the town. At this time the board was considering offering the townspeople at least two options for obtaining the money to build an addition. To either raise the money through taxation or tax out a loan with a bank. Bobby brings up an option to look into stimulus money or grant money for our emergency operations

center. The board acknowledges something needs to be done in the near future. There was more discussion on options and size of an addition, but to not do just a little addition for storage to look at all of the towns' needs and move forward from there. The select board will need to decide on what option is best for the town and how to present it to the townspeople for town meeting. The board asks Maynard if they could decide on a more specific size of an addition if he could give them a more precise estimate, and he said to just get in touch with him and he would.

There was some discussion on a fire call the fire department was currently working on in the town of New Portland.

Becky brought up to the board that the state DOT was scheduled to be in town sometime during the week to clean off the bridges.

The board told Stacie that they did read the personnel policy and sexual harassment policy and they did not see anything they opposed. The board motioned and voted that both policies would be accepted as written. The board signed the policy.

Stacie brought up to the board the issue of the select board deciding not to change the hours of the town office to better enable necessary paperwork to be completed during town office hours. She just wanted to reiterate to the board she had contracted for 23 hours per week, other than a couple of times a year. And the paperwork that needs to be attended to along with regular office duties was much more than that. She wanted to make sure the board knew that not only her duties, but also, the other staff members have been finding the current weekly operating hours were not enough to maintain all positions duties. In years past the hours may have been enough, but that is not the case currently. The board asks Stacie what she thought the hours should be? She stated it should be 32 hours per week. Janet spoke and said she has been considering options for the issue at hand, and Janet thinks the office should not be open the 32 hours a week, but Stacie's position should increase to 32 hours a week. She feels if the office is open the extra hours the work will still not get done. She feels that the positions' hours should increase so that the workload can get completed. There was some discussion on the simple survey that was conducted in previous months. Stacie also points out to the board some transactions that are being processed in other towns could be processed in the town office, but because of the current office hours people choose to go elsewhere. She also points out to the board that in the past the board has suggested to her to close her door and not make herself available to the public in order to get her work accomplished. She informs the board, from a manager's point of view, she finds it very difficult to do this. She finds it very difficult to state to the public she cannot attend to their issues because she is busy working with paperwork. The board discusses more about additional requirements from the state as far as paperwork. Janet states again she is concerned about increasing the office hours. Janet feels work still might not get finished, she wonders if Stacie's hours should increase to give her more office time to finish paperwork. There was some discussion regarding the deputy town manager's duties. And it was agreed upon they all needed to take some things into consideration and try to figure out how to make things better for all staff members.

Gilbert Taylor delivered the generator which was given to the town from Somerset County. And it is now being stored behind the fire station. The options of how it could be used in the future were discussed.

There were also discussions on how our options could be incorporated with the proposed addition options. Budget committee meetings were set for department heads and the selectmen for January 12 and 13. And the budget committee members would then be scheduled for January 19 at 6:30 pm. Stacie asked the board whom they would like for moderator for town meeting. The board unanimously agreed they wanted Ken Lexier, who has moderated before. The board asked Stacie to contact him immediately. The board also inquired the attendance of last year's town meeting. It was discussed, and everyone present thought if the same amount of people attended this year's

town meeting the community room at the fire station would meet the town's needs for space. There was some discussion of options if the community room was not big enough to meet the town's needs for space. It was decided the annual town meeting would be held at the fire station, but still undecided as to if it would be in the community room or the bays of the fire station.

There was some discussion to start having the winter plow contractor at selectmen's meetings during the winter months. All present agreed it was a good idea, and they would get in touch with the current winter plow contractor, Gilbert Taylor, and see if he would be available to do that. This would just give the board, Stacie and the contractor the opportunity to discuss any issues at hand or simply communicate how things were going. Stacie also brought to the board's attention that in the months where there were more than one accounts payable warrant to be signed, the board legally was to be signing these warrants at a recorded public meeting. In the past the board has just come into the office to sign a second warrant or the warrant was brought to them so that checks could be mailed. Stacie suggested to the board they schedule a regular second meeting in the month in case a second warrant is issued. And if there were no other business other than signing a warrant it would not take up much of the boards' time. There was some discussion on how some other towns handle this issue and that the board used to meet twice a month. Warrants were signed.

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

Town Manager

It's hard to believe January is over already. It has been a very busy month at the town office. We have been doing lots of preparations for the budget and town meeting. I have a few things to finalize, and then all the information will be sent off to the printer for the annual town meeting report. I would like to thank the board of selectmen and the budget committee for their hard work in putting together all the information for the 2010 budget. Just a reminder to everyone of the date for our annual town meeting, which is March 6 at the Fire Station at 9:30 am.

The recreation committee will be hosting another Winterfest on Saturday, February 6 at 12 pm. I hope many of you will attend; it should be another great success.

Respectfully,

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

New Portland Community Library

New Portland Library News: Have you visited our library lately? We've added four new shelving units to hold our ever increasing number of books. If you're interested in a certain book, check out our website to see if it is listed. Website address is <http://www.new-portland.lib.me.us>. Your library is open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4:00 – 6:00 pm., Saturday from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (noon).

To raise money to help support our activity nights, book purchases, etc., we are currently conducting a Valentine Day Gift Certificate Raffle. First Prize - \$50 gift certificate for Nostalgia Tavern and \$15 gift certificate for Scentsations. Second Prize- \$30 gift certificate for Longfellow's and \$20 gift certificate for a Daisy-a-Day corsage. Tickets are \$1.00 a piece or a book of six for \$5.00. These are available from board members or at the library during business hours. The drawing will be held February 9 and prizes would make a terrific gift for your sweetie. Come visit us soon.

Friends of the Library: The Scrapbooking Activity Night was well attended. Shelby Newell and her mother Arlene helped us choose pictures, clip corners, select the perfect paper, and gave us all encour-

agement to keep trying. Thank you, ladies. It was mentioned perhaps we can meet a few more times. Will let you know about that later. If you're interested in scrapbooking let us know.

Next Activity Night is February 17, Wednesday at 6:30 pm. It is "Chocolate Potluck and Game Night." This was a very popular one last year. Bring your favorite chocolate dessert to share with everyone. Friends of the Library will provide plates, utensils, and drinks. Also, bring a favorite game to play with your neighbors. If it snows on the 17th, we will hold on it on the 18th.

New Portland Knitters will be meeting at the library on Feb 18 at 1:00. Bring whatever you are working on, enjoy socializing with your neighbors, and munch on a goodie or two. This isn't just a knitting group. If you crochet, needlework, tat, whatever, bring your projects and have some fun.

Submitted: Stephanie Campbell and Petrina Bearor

Stories of life under Nazi occupation are the common thread of The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, the novel to be discussed on February 11 at the New Portland Community Library Book Club. This work of fiction begins in 1946 and is related through a series of letters by an author, her literary acquaintances and the people of Guernsey. It is a clever, quick read which is very appealing to those of us who enjoy our rural life here in Maine. Please, join us at 6:30 pm at the library across from town hall on River Road .

Those attending are encouraged to bring suggestions for the next three months' reads, too. Perhaps a poetry related topic would be in order for April, since it is National Poetry Month? Let us know if you would be interested in a poetry night book club, where you would read your own poems or someone else's work or just enjoy listening to others read. We are open to suggestions and new members!

Submitted: Kaye Michka

Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers

The December meeting was called to order with 10 members present. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Trail Master's Report: Since the last meeting two bridges have been fixed, and some trails have been relocated and brushed. There is one more bridge on the Black Hill Trail that needs work.

The Gilman Pond Trail needs to be relocated and then signed.

If you plan on doing any trail work and you need signs, backer boards or stickers to put the signs on contact either Kendall or Lewis. Also, remember to keep track of the amount of time you work and give it to Kendall.

Lewis stated the groomers need to be serviced. He will be in contact with people when he plans on doing it.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm. The next meeting will be January 16 at the fire station. The business meeting will start at 6:30 pm. Hope to see you then.

After the meeting, we held our Christmas party. We shared gifts and excellent food. If you need any help with hair problems or chafing, see Chuck and Kendall.

The January meeting was called to order with 13 members present.

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

Kendall will be doing the application for mid-season reimbursement

to help out with finances.

Trail Master Report: All the trails have been broken out and groomed at least once. Also, there is a bridge on Millay Hill that needs to be repaired. Brushing needs to be done on the Hancock Pond Trail.

Social Director: On February 13, there will be a club mystery ride led by Kevin Bixby. If you are interested in joining in on the ride, meet at the Wire Bridge Diner at 9:00 am.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

The next meeting will be February 20th at the fire station meeting room. The business meeting will start at 6:30. Hope to see you then.

Submitted: Joyce Knowles

Citizen's Corner

Hello, New Portland residents:

My name is Wayne Rundlett; I was born and raised right here in New Portland. I have resided on the Heather Road for the past thirteen years. I have been a member of the fire department for more than twenty years and work in a nearby town. I am running for Selectman this year to continue my community service and to represent the people of New Portland.

We have all seen many changes over the years here in town, and I would like to work with others to try and rebuild our small community. Most of you already know me and for those of you who don't, I look forward to meeting you. I hope, you will cast your vote for me on Friday, March 5 at our local voting polls in the fire station community room.

Respectfully,

Submitted: Wayne Rundlett

Thank You

Bill and I would like to express our thanks to all the fire departments that responded to our house fire on January 5. We also want to thank everyone for the calls and offers of anything which we might have needed. It is comforting to know we have so many friends and family around us. Thank you, again.

Submitted: Bill and Renee Emery

The Friends of the Highland Mountains would like to extend our thanks to the Town of New Portland for generously lending us the use of its community hall on January 16. Our area-wide dinner and informational meeting was a great success thanks to the hard work of many individuals. There were so many people in attendance that we had standing room only, and not much of that!

We would also like to thank Janet White for cleaning the hall for us before our event. She certainly goes above and beyond the call of duty. Thanks also, to *The New Portlander* for giving us a voice as we attempted to get the word out about the industrial wind development slated for the mountains in our neighborhood.

If anyone missed the meeting and would like to find out more about industrial wind in general or this project in particular, please visit www.highlandmts.org.

Thank you.

Submitted: Karen Bessy Pease

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 POSTAL PATRON

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The New Portlander



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NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR
FEBRUARY 2010



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Selectmen's Meeting 6:00 pm	3 School Board Meeting - 6:00 pm Planning Board Mtg 6:30 pm	4	5	6 Town Office Open 8 am - noon
7 New Portland Community Church 11:00 am	8	9 NPF - 7:00 pm Library Board of Trustees 6:00 pm	10 Water District 7:00 pm	11 New Portland Community Book Club 6:30 pm at NPCL	12	13 Sno-Travellers Mystery Ride Wire Bridge Diner 9:00 am
14 New Portland Community Church 11:00 am	15 MAC Meeting 7:00 pm	16	17 Firemen's Auxiliary 6:30 pm Activity Night - 6:30 pm "Chocolate Potluck & Game Night"	18 New Portland Knitters NPCL 1:00 pm	19	20 Wire Bridge Sno-Travellers Fire Station 6:30 pm
21 New Portland Community Church 11:00 am	22	23 NPF - 7:00 pm	24	25	26	27
28 New Portland Community Church 11:00 am	REMINDER: March 5 Election Polls at Fire Station Meeting Room March 6 Annual Town Meeting at the Fire Station at 9:30 am					