



NEW PORTLANDER

INFORMATION IS THE CURRENCY OF DEMOCRACY — THOMAS JEFFERSON



PUBLICATION VOLUME 17 NUMBER 10 Visit the Town of New Portland's web page at newportlandmaine.org

MAY 1, 2011

E-mail for town business: nwprtlnd@tds.net | The Town of New Portland is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.

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
(except Holiday weekends)

Town Clerk: Becky Taylor

Vital statistics & dog licensing

Monday 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Thursdays 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Deputy Town Clerk: Marilyn Gorman

Monday 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

CEO:

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

Assessor's Agent:

Every other Monday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
or call to schedule a meeting

Remember...

- **Selectmen's Meeting**
1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm &
3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm
- **New Portland Fire Department Meeting**
2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 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**
2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm

New Portlander deadline is May 25 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.

Notice of Tax Sale

The Board of Selectmen of New Portland is accepting bids for the purchase of the municipality's interest in New Portland's tax-acquired properties. Each bid must be in writing and in a sealed envelope marked "Tax Sale Bid" on the outside. Each bid may be for one property only; any person wishing to bid on several properties must submit a separate bid for each one. The Board of Selectmen must receive all bids no later than 5:00 pm on May 16, 2011. Late bids will not be opened or considered.

Each bid must also include the bidder's name, mailing address and phone number and must be accompanied by a deposit in the form of a certified check or money order, in an amount equal to or greater than 10% of the bid price. Each successful bidder's deposit will be credited to the total purchase price for that parcel. Deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Any bid which does not contain the proper deposit, will be rejected.

Bids will be opened, reviewed and awarded by the Selectmen at the Town Office on May 16, 2011, at 6:15 pm. The Board of Selectmen reserve the right to reject any and all bids. Each successful bidder shall have 30 days from the date of the bid acceptance in which to complete the purchase. Each property will be conveyed by a quitclaim deed without covenants. In the event that a successful bidder fails, for any reason, to complete the purchase in the time stated, the bid acceptance is void and the bidder's deposit shall be forfeited to the Town. The Board of Selectmen may thereafter negotiate a sale of the property with any or all unsuccessful bidders.

The properties for sale are described on the Towns Tax Maps as: Map 12 Lot 33 and Map 11 Lot 05.

The tax maps and other public information concerning the properties may be reviewed at the Town Office during its normal business hours, which are Monday through Wednesday from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm and Thursdays from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Submitted: Douglas Archer, Chairman

Accepting Applications Assessor's Agent

The Town of New Portland is currently accepting applications for a part time Assessor's Agent. The position will be responsible for gathering information to determine the valuation of all exempt and taxable, real and personal property in the Town of New Portland. The appraisal work involves gathering of information by inspection, research, and examination of records, and using this information to determine the tax assessment of the property; executing official documents and assuring the accuracy and validity of the annual property tax commitment; determining the tax rate and preparing commitment; maintaining accurate assessment records; extensive public contact.

An application package, including full job description, can be obtained at the Town Office located at 901 River Road, New Portland, Maine or by calling Stacie Rundlett at (207) 628-4441 ext. #1. Applications may be submitted to the Town Office:

By fax: (207) 628-4440
By email: townmanager@newportlandmaine.com
By mail: Assessor's Agent Search
C/O Town Manager
Town of New Portland
PO Box 629
New Portland, ME 04954

Applications will be accepted until May 12, 2011, 7:00 pm.

The Town of New Portland is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen is planning to propose an article on the Special Town Meeting Warrant for May 16th that would replace Article 7 that was approved at the annual town meeting. Article 7 was proposed by the Concerned Citizen Committee and passed at town meeting and requires the selectmen to "make the town aware of the availability of discretionary funds, such as TIF and Surplus, to propose options for their use and seek town approval of any expenditures of these funds". We want to propose an article that would honor the intent of the concerned citizens article but not tie our hands in conducting day to day town business. As currently passed we feel the article is open to wide interpretation, and we do not want to have a special town meeting for expending from the town's reserve accounts. We will be reviewing a draft of the new proposed article at the monthly selectmen's meeting and we welcome your input.

Submitted: Andrea Reichert

Selectmen's Minutes

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 21, 2011

Selectmen Present: Lorie Agren, Doug Archer, Wayne Rundlett; Present: Terry and Maynard Handrahan, Josh Handrahan

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Nothing from the Department Heads

Town Manager reviewed with the Board of Selectmen the findings from MMA regarding petitions presented for seven articles to be placed on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. MMA Legal Services stated that all petitioned articles were legal, just very vague. There was some discussion regarding ways to properly word any amendments to these articles from Terry and Maynard Handrahan. The Board of Selectmen motioned and all were in favor to place these seven articles first on the warrant as the outcome of a vote might change other articles on the warrant. Doug Archer motioned to place an article on the town warrant to change from a calendar year to fiscal year running July 1 to June 30. Lorie seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

**These minutes are just a summary from the meeting and were approved at the April 5 Selectmen's meeting as written. SMR*

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 1, 2011

Selectmen Present: Lorie Agren, Wayne Rundlett, (Doug Archer not present due to vacation); Department Heads Present: Stacie Rundlett, Kip Poulin, Becky Taylor, Gary Agren; Present: Mike Dentico, Ed Boyer, Dwayne Ricker, Nora West, Marilyn Gorman

Meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

Becky Taylor gave the Board of Selectmen a copy of the voting laws for residency. There was some discussion regarding complaints that voters were claiming to be residents but might not meet the State of Maine's criteria for residency.

There was nothing from Kip Poulin or Gary Agren.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed and signed the warrants.

Selectmen opted to table a decision on having Polly MacMichael restructure our website, until the new selectperson was elected. It was noted that the current website had incorrect time for Selectmen's meetings. Stacie would contact the current webmaster to correct.

Selectmen reviewed an abatement request. Selectmen reviewed three properties foreclosed on by the Town and scheduled a date of May 16 to sell off those properties by a sealed bidding process. There was some discussion about the process which needs to take place to advertise this event. Nora West spoke to the Board of Selectmen regarding her concerns of our town looking into the possibilities of adopting a Wind Tower Ordinance. There was some discussion about this subject, and Nora was recommended to contact the Planning Board and proceed from there.

Motioned and seconded to adjourn the meeting, all were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.

**These minutes are just a summary from the meeting and were approved at the April 5th Selectmen's meeting as written. SMR*

SELECTMEN'S MEETING, MARCH 21, 2011

Selectmen Present: Doug Archer, Andrea Reichert and Wayne Rundlett; Meeting called to order by Doug at 6:35 pm; Present: Becky Taylor, Mike Dentico, Terry Handrahan, Polly and Rob MacMichael, Lorie Agren, Gary Agren, Brian Rundlett

Andrea motioned that Doug remain chairman of the board. Wayne seconded and all were in favor. The board reviewed minutes from previous meeting. There was a brief discussion on spelling and grammatical errors. Andrea motioned to accept the minutes after they were corrected. Doug seconded and all were in favor.

Gary shared with the board that he will be going on vacation from March 22 until April 4. He will be leaving Wayne as the contact person in case of an emergency. Gary asked to have his pit road exempt from Heavy Load Limits for the Town of New Portland and the Town of New Vineyard. This would exempt trucks that are over the Heavy Load Limit and allow them to travel the road to his pit in the case of an emergency. There was a brief discussion about how this has been allowed in the past. Doug motioned to give the Town of New Portland and the Town of New Vineyard exemption on the Colegrove Road for the weight limit in case of an emergency. Wayne seconded and all were in favor. There was a brief discussion regarding mud on the Middle Road and fallen trees in the roadways. Gary

also discussed with the board an issue with the garage door on the old fire station in the West where the rock rake and fuel tank for the grader are stored. Andrea suggested that the town get an estimate to repair the door and then give Gilbert Taylor the option to cover it. Andrea motioned, Doug seconded and all were in favor. It was suggested to Stacie to try a business called Vienna Doors. Becky stated that Gilbert would also go over and take a look at the door.

Becky gave the board appointment papers to review and sign. And she stated to the board that she was in hopes to get the fireproof file cabinets ordered soon. Stacie discussed with Becky that it was a matter of coordinating with her for scheduling purposes on delivery. Doug motioned to appoint Jethro Poulin as the fire chief for the term of one year. Wayne seconded and all were in favor.

The board reviewed and signed warrants #9 (\$3,492.78) & #10 (\$10,715.85).

There was a brief discussion regarding the electricity supplier and if it has been cost effective. Stacie will provide to the board the data to review so they can determine whether to switch suppliers or not. Stacie updated the board on properties that will be scheduled to be auctioned due to foreclosure. Stacie discussed with the board the findings of MMA legal services regarding Articles 2 and 7 that were passed at the Annual Town Meeting. Andrea asked if Stacie would get a clear answer from MMA as to the definition of discretionary funds, pertaining to Article 7.

Doug read to the public a letter from Nona Young which was similar to her statements made at town meeting to cancel Annette Folco's position as Deputy Town Manager. There was a brief discussion regarding this position and the qualifications of all the applicants who applied for the position. Stacie shared with the board that Annette was not only a qualified applicant but also a New Portland resident which is a requirement in the job description for that position. The board stated that they would not consider the request but wanted more information so to best respond to Nona Young regarding her request. Andrea volunteered to draft a letter to Nona for everyone to review at the next meeting.

The board decided to table the proposed amendments for TIF projects from the attorney's office.

Stacie shared with the board that the assessor's agent Audra Swanson had given her two week notice to resign. Wayne agreed to contact Bertrand Dyer to be interim assessor's agent until a replacement can be hired. Lorie Agren asked if the board would be advertising for the position. The board decided to hold off on advertising the position until they received word from Bertrand as to what he might be able to do.

Doug discussed with everyone that the Kingfield/New Portland Transfer Station Committee asked if New Portland could assist more regarding agendas and transcribing minutes to meetings. There was a brief discussion regarding this, and Stacie agreed that the staff in the New Portland Town Office could make the time to assist Kingfield with some of the duties. This would save \$7,700 within the Kingfield/New Portland Transfer Station budget. Stacie informed the board that sealed bids will be opened on April 14 at 5:30 pm for work that needs to be done at the transfer station. Doug discussed that once the board had more actual figures to work with he would like the board to keep an open mind about working to keep the mil rate down this year.

Doug discussed his interest in having the assessor's agent provide a monthly report to the board. There was a brief discussion on this

and what needed to be provided in this report. There was a brief discussion on how much traffic came through the town office regarding tax assessing. Stacie informed the board that even though the assessor was only in every other Monday she answered many questions during the week regarding tax assessing and mapping.

Polly MacMichael questioned the board and the options of the town for improving downtown West New Portland. She stated that there were a number of abandoned buildings and asked what the protocol was for condemning those buildings. The board asked if Stacie could contact Robert Dunphy, CEO, to come to a meeting to elaborate on the guidelines for condemning buildings. There was a discussion about the Municipal Advisory Committee and ways to get volunteers for this committee. She offered to enter descriptions of vacant committees on the Facebook page, in hopes to bring people forward to volunteer. She asked for authorization to be the administrator of the Facebook page. She stated she had already created it but felt more comfortable being the administrator to monitor what gets put on that page. She asked the board about outstanding loans the town has and if the board had considered paying down a loan with surplus.

Lorie informed the board that she will be doing some training for animal control. There was a brief discussion regarding an issue with dogs destroying property on Trinity Farm Road. She was having difficulty contacting the dog owner but would continue to trying. She also asked that her name be removed from the list of selectmen for the sheriff's department and state police.

Mike Denticio briefly discussed with the board the poor road conditions of Long Falls Dam Road.

Polly asked for what the second meeting of the month was intended. There was a discussion stating the second meeting was intended for just the signing of a warrant or an emergency situation. Polly asked if the Items by the Public could be moved up for one of those meetings. The board stated if someone wished to be heard before the time listed on the agenda that all they needed to do was speak up.

Meeting adjourned 8:14 pm.

**These minutes are just a summary from the meeting and were approved at the April 5 Selectmen's meeting as written. SMR*

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 4, 2011

Selectmen Present: Andrea Reichert, Wayne Rundlett, Doug Archer; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Gary Agren, Becky and Gilbert Taylor, Marilyn Gorman, Rob MacMichael, Ed Boyer, Duane Ricker, Robert Dunphy, Mike Denticio

Meeting called to order 6:35 pm.

Selectmen reviewed minutes from meetings February 21, March 1, 2011, March 21, 2011. Wayne motioned to accept the minutes as written, Doug seconded and all were in favor. There was a brief discussion of TIF expenditures from 2010.

Kip discussed with the board that there may be changes in the law for the length of time turnout gear is used. If this law is changed, this will greatly affect the fire department budget in upcoming years. But he will keep the board posted. He questioned the board as to the direction they would like him to continue regarding the town's need for a truck to haul water for the fire department. There was a brief discussion on that need and how it could be met with minimal costs

to the town. The board decided they need to get some legal advice from MMA on how to proceed, and after they receive that information they would determine how to best bring this to the townspeople. Kip updated the board on a few calls that the department had answered within the last month.

Gary updated the board on the conditions of the back roads. He informed the board that as soon as the weather cleared the grader would be out doing its usual rounds. He also informed the board that brake shoes for the grader would be approximately \$4,500. This did not include the installation of the shoes, just the brake shoes themselves. He wanted to board to know how expensive parts are for this type of equipment. Gilbert suggested another parts store in Bangor to inquire additional pricing on parts to have more options. Gary also informed the board that it cost \$100 per hour to rent a grader not the \$75 he had mentioned at town meeting. So owning and operating our own grader has proven even more savings for the town versus renting one. There was a brief discussion regarding a document that Becky had recently found in her office regarding summer roadwork over \$1000.00 going out to bid. During this discussion, it was determined that this may be an earlier document to the current road ordinance, which may have been amended to \$8,000.00 when the road ordinance was created. The board felt very strongly this was the case as \$1000.00 was not a lot of money when it came to summer roadwork. Becky stated that because of the inquiries made last year regarding a dollar amount she felt the board should at least have this document for their records.

Becky thanked Stacie for ordering her fireproof filing cabinets. She is in the process of moving all the clerk's documents and is in hopes to have that completed by the end of the month. She discussed with the board training she received while attending a Vital Records for the State of Maine session and shared with them some changes that will be coming in the near future for all clerk offices and how death, birth and marriage licenses will be accessed. She is in hopes of more training on this. She will not be in the office during the third week of April which is school vacation as she will be away.

Robert Dunphy discussed with the board their options for condemning hazardous abandoned properties in New Portland. He provided to the board a copy of the state laws regarding the process. It was determined that he would start by issuing letters to the property owners who have buildings that are not secured properly. Then, after the board reviews the information he has provided to them, they can determine how to proceed from then. He stressed that the board needed to address all properties and not just ones that may be an eye sore to the local villages. He said the board could address these issues brought before them but needed to proceed only after they had thoroughly reviewed all the laws and information regarding this process since it is not a simple process. There was a brief discussion on taking properties by eminent domain and what happens to a property if it is condemned. Also, other options for the town and how to handle the abandoned properties were discussed. The board decided to hold off any decisions regarding this issue until they had more information. Andrea asked about junk yards and Dunphy stated once the snow melted he would be addressing that issue.

The board reviewed and signed Warrant #11 (\$79,982.17).

There was a discussion regarding the vacancy for the assessor's agent position. Wayne had contacted Bertrand Dyer to see if he was willing to assist during this time, and he was willing to help temporarily. The board asked Stacie to make arrangements for Bertrand to be in the office on April 11 when Audra will be in the office for the last time, so they could discuss where the assessing department was

at this time. Doug also volunteered to be there as well. Stacie asked about advertising for the position and how the board wanted to proceed. It was decided that a job description for the assessor's agent would be created and an ad would be run in May's New Portlander, in the Irregular and posted on the town's website and Maine Municipal Association's website. Robert Dunphy reminded the board that Tax Assessing School was coming up in August. This will be a requirement for the assessor's agent to become certified if the agent is not already. The board will be reviewing the ad at the next meeting before it gets published.

There was a discussion on the TIF amendments to the approved projects for expenditures from the town's attorney's office. After being brought up to speed about the events leading to this document being amended, Andrea motioned to accept them and proceed with a public hearing followed by a town vote on the amendments. It was decided that this would be scheduled for Monday, May 16 at the regularly scheduled selectmen's meeting. This is also the scheduled date for acceptance of sealed bids on properties on which the town has foreclosed and are going up for auction.

There was a discussion on the proposal from Polly MacMichael, for updating the town's website and having the capability to maintain this site internally at the town office. Andrea had voiced that she had always wanted to have the ordinances and forms available to the public on the website but not had the opportunity to see that through. Stacie agreed that this was a thought she had as well to provide more convenience for the public. The board decided they would move forward with the changes to the website pending questions that needed to be answered from Maine Municipal Association and getting a sense of how the town's people felt about this. This would be a topic at the May 16 selectmen's meeting for final approval.

After a lengthy discussion the board agreed to have an article for the people to vote on regarding their authority to spend money from the town's discretionary funds and sub accounts created for specific projects, since this usual authority has been questioned since the Annual Town Meeting and the articles that were passed as written.

The board authorized Annette Falco, Deputy Town Manager, to attend training at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles that will enable her to do registrations on her own. State laws require that she obtain this training before she can be left alone in the office. They also authorized her to be compensated for mileage to attend these classes as well as pay her for her time to attend.

Stacie briefed the board that on April 12 there will be 148 30-Day Lien Notices that will be sent out for 2010 Real Estate Taxes. She also discussed with them a letter that had come to the board regarding a property listed as a business property and changing this to a residential property. She asked for authorization to notify this person that the board would be getting in touch with the owner once the assessor's agent position had been straightened out and would be trying to schedule a meeting with the owner to properly address this issue. The board agreed.

Andrea reviewed with the board members and Stacie the response to Nona Young regarding her concern about the Deputy Town Manager, Annette Folco. The letter stated Annette was one of the qualified applicants and the board wished to give her a chance to prove herself in this position. Andrea asked about performance reviews and if they had been being done. They have not been done since 2007, and it was stated performance reviews needed to start being done again.

Andrea asked Stacie if the summer roads expenditures could be broken down by roads to have more detailed data? Stacie stated that she had already planned on taking the extra steps to make sure this was done as the budgeting software did not do this automatically for them. Andrea questioned about pictures that may have been taken of damages to the garage door at the old fire station in the West Village. Gilbert and Gary made plans to meet on Thursday and try to get the door fixed so entry to the building could be made since the fuel tank for the grader diesel and rock rake are still in the building. Gilbert questioned the board if they ever considered having a mandatory drug test for all town employees, and contractors. There was a brief discussion regarding this and the board determined that they did not see this to be an issue at this time, they did not know of any incidents. But they agreed to keep an open mind about it if there ever were an issue within the town's municipal workforce.

Doug motioned to adjourn, Andrea seconded all were in favor.

Meeting adjourned 8:24 pm.

**These minutes are just a summary from the meeting and were approved at the April 18th Selectman's Meeting as written. SMR*

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett

Town Manager

I would like to offer my sincere apologies to Mark McLaughlin and Tiffany Smith for Mark's name appearing in the Annual Town Report for delinquent taxes. With the help of Tiffany and their mortgage company, we discovered a cash receipting error from last year. When their mortgage company issued the tax payment, it did not have their account number on it, and it was entered under a wrong account number, which was an office error. This error has been corrected, and they are not delinquent on any taxes. For those of you who escrow your taxes with your mortgage company, you may want to review with your mortgage company that when making a tax payment for you it is best to attach your account number with it as well as your name. This would help to avoid any mistakes in the future.

We will be having a very busy May this year as we have a lot of different things going on in the middle of the month. We will be accepting sealed bids for town owned property which will be opened and reviewed by the Select Board on May 16. This will be advertised in the Morning Sentinel and Sun Journal. That same evening there will be a public hearing regarding proposed amendments to the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) approved revenue projects, which will be followed by a Special Town Meeting to vote on this and other articles that will be posted no later than May 9, 2011. So please keep looking for that final warrant to be posted at the post office in the North Village, the library bulletin board and at the town office.

Respectfully...

Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

New Portland Community Library

Friends of the Library: The next Activity Night planned is May 18 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm at the library. This is an appetizer swap. Bring your favorite appetizer to share with others. We will also swap recipes. Recipe cards and beverages will be provided by the library.

Our annual "Plant, Book, and Bake Sale" is planned for June 4 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Donations of plants, books, and food are most welcomed. You may drop plants or books off at the library on Wednesday, June 1; Thursday, June 2; Friday, June 3 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm or the day of the sale. We will be calling friends and neighbors for food donations. This year we also have some vendors selling seeds and other goodies. Author Will Bonsall will be here sharing his knowledge of plants and his Scatterseed Project. Mark the date on your calendar. See you then.

The Knitwits will be meeting at the library May 12 and May 26 at 10:00 am. Bring your projects to work, share, talk, seek help or advice, laugh, and eat. We have a good time and we really do get some knitting, crocheting, or needlework done. We will be making plans for the summer months at this meeting.

I forgot to thank Judi Wills and the people who donated food to sell at the town meeting. They donated \$82.00 to the library's project fund. Thank you so much, ladies.

100 Club Winners for March: Dallas Landry, Joan Moes, Gary Cobb, Lorrie Hibbard, Shelia Hoyt, Jackie (George) Arsenault, Jane and Philip Emery, Linda Morey, Russ Whitten, Betty Brown, Franklin-Somerset County Credit Union, and Deb Clague.

If you haven't renewed your membership and want to, please send your check to the New Portland Community Library, 899 River Road, New Portland ME 04961.

Children's Activity Day is May 7 at 10:00 am. Bring your child to meet author Nancy Prince and listen to her read her book.

Submitted Petrina Bearor and Stephanie Campbell

The New Portland Community Library Board would like to thank the people of New Portland for so graciously allocating a generous amount of funding in support of the library, during the New Portland Town Meeting. We will do our best to use the money wisely, promote literacy in the community, and make as many programs available to you as we possibly can.

The library has a conference room available at no charge, wireless internet service and several computer bays, and we receive new books, DVDs and audio books daily. We host a revolving art show, and our Children's Programs are a big success! The Book Club and the Knitwits knitting club meet there regularly. The Board is working to promote our activities on Facebook. We are always looking for volunteers to lead one night enrichment programs or mini-session educational programs. We also have a suggestion can on the front counter, if you would like to share an idea with us about how we could better serve you. Our number is 628-6561 and we are located at 899 River Road, across from the Town Office.

Stop by, say hello, and check out the library! While you are there, check out a book, too!

The New Portland Community Library Book Club will be discussing *Cleopatra: A Life* by Stacy Schiff on May 12 at 6:30 pm. The non-fiction work is really quite interesting, written in a very witty style. We will meet at the library, across from the Town Office, and everyone is welcome. Togs and Kohl eyeliner are not required.

We had a great time at Community Poetry Night in April, in celebration of National Poetry Month. An amazing number of poems were written by locals and included local history or flavor. Stephanie Dunn read a poem in Spanish and won the prize of an antique book of poetry entitled *Kennebec*, written by Maine scientist, poet and Colby graduate Louise Helen Coburn. Ezra Pease shared a family poem via Pete Bearor that seemed as appropriate today as it did 100 years ago when it was written. This will definitely become an annual event!

Submitted: Kay Michka

The New Portland Community Library will hold a reception for the artists in the latest "SPRING" art show on May Day, Sunday, May 1 from 4-6 pm. Susan Hellewell's vibrant floral paintings dance across the walls, Wally Warren's found-object sculptures are a delight and Rama Crystal Brown's reconstructed string instruments seem to contemplate it all. There will be a Maypole Dance for the kids starting at 4 pm accompanied by a bevy of talented young string musicians. Please come for the fun and light refreshments. Everybody is welcome!

Submitted: Lolly Phoenix

Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers

Are you a snowmobiler in New Portland? The Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers are looking for new members. We do have a number of people about eight people who are local, but most live in another state or far away. We do appreciate their support by becoming members, but what we need are members who can help with trail work. There is a group that organizes what needs to be done and how to comply with MSA guidelines: brushing along sides of trails and overhead, signing the trails with proper signs and directions, building of bridges and repairs. It is a small number of people in the club that can do this work to give the opportunity to snowmobile in our area or for people to travel thorough our area. The club meets the third Saturday of the month, August through May. We meet at the Community Room at the fire station in New Portland. Meetings start at 6:30 pm and usually are about an hour long. So, please come to a meeting to see what the club is all about and decide if you would like to join. May is our last meeting of the spring, and we start up again in August. Hope to see some new people who love to snowmobile, cross country ski / snowshoe or just want to join a club.

Submitted: Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by President Dave Carey.

Members present: Lewis Wills, vice president; Judi Wills, social director; David Reed, Alice Bixby, Kevin Bixby and Brad Bucklin. Kendall and Joyce were unable to attend.

Lewis gave a brief presentation on the March meeting. Chuck Taylor and Lewis were the only people to show, so no meeting was held.

Treasurer's report was read from the March meeting. All bills were paid and the club seems to be doing okay financially. It was felt the report from middle of March to present would not have changed much due to no charges, other than interest to the accounts. Discussion was held about the grant money and registration money from the town that will be coming in soon and will change the final amount. The report was voted on and accepted.

Lewis reminded members if they did brushing or trail work and have not contacted him or Kendall with their time; it needs to be done soon. Kendall has been working on the grant and will be sending it in soon. Discussion was held about the sign order that Kendall will be sending in and a list of signs that are needed was made. Lewis will contact Kendall to make sure they are ordered.

A reminder that May is "election of officers". Discussion was held that Chuck Taylor would like to give up treasurer but will stay committed to the fall. Members discussed at the May meeting finding out if indeed he did not want this position and to see if there was someone else to take it over. Discussion was held on suggested people. It was felt Chuck has done a great job. Lewis wanted to make sure members planned on attending the May meeting to vote. He also challenged members to "Bring a Friend" to the next meeting. Could be a member or not. It was discussed we needed to get the club built up and some ideas of how to do that were discussed. One idea was to bring a friend (member or not) to the next meeting, to give members a chance to adopt a trail to be responsible for, to organize the meetings to cover items but not to drag out the discussions or go off into other conversations. Members supported this and more planning will be done at the May meeting.

At the February meeting we had talked about the landowner's dinner. It had been discussed to do the dessert night again in May. Dessert had not been chosen at that meeting. At this meeting, Judi stated she would be willing to do the dinner, prime rib, potatoes, vegetable and dessert. She stated with the small amount of people in the club, it will be work but felt strongly this should be done. Members agreed and stated they would definitely help. The date was changed to the fall in October, exact date has not been set; this will be done at May meeting. Judi will check for open dates for the use of the hall in October.

In September the club usually does a booth at the Lions Fair and discussion was held to see if there was an interest in continuing this project. Members felt we should, some felt it was time to give it up. Everyone shared their thoughts and ideas, and it was felt to try it again this year and revisit the subject after the fair. Discussion of the fair booth, much needed work needs to be done. It was suggested to get a new frame and make the booth wider so members selling tickets would have room. David Reed and Brian Rundlett both said they had trailer frames that would probably work well. Lewis will go look at these and bring back the information at the May meeting. The booth we now have will be given back to the people who gave it to the club as they said they would like it back when we were done using it. Design ideas were discussed and more information and ideas will be held at the next meeting.

Kevin brought up questions about groomer repairs and if there was anything that needed to be down. The tracks were talked about and changing to some "grip" on ice going up hills. Lewis said he had information about changing the tracks and would research it and bring back information to the club. Kevin also asked about a "brushing" attachment that goes onto the groomer to get the branches high up. Dave said he knew of clubs that had them. More information will be brought to next club meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm. Next meeting May 21 at 6:30 pm.

Submitted: Joyce Knowles

The folks from Lexington did it!

Thanks everyone for sending enough money to cover the mailing costs of the *New Portlander* for 2011. It's a job well done! Now, we won't miss a single issue. But I'll be back begging next year so get ready! Happy spring and enjoy keeping informed about everything that's happening.

Submitted: Dotti Carter

To All New Portland Community Residents:

Thank you all for your recent food donations. This extra food will enable us to keep our shelves full. Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness. Please feel free to stop by any Tuesday and visit our food cupboard from 9:00 am until noon.

*Sincerely,
Barbara & all the People Who Care Food Cupboard volunteers*

Literacy Volunteers

Literacy Volunteers of Franklin and Somerset Counties is having its gigantic annual book sale. Come to the Elk's Lodge on School Street in West Farmington on May 7 and 8. There are thousands of books to choose from ranging from astrology to zoology with romances, sci-

ence fiction and non-fiction thrown in for spice! The sale starts on both days at 9:00 am. So, get there early and buy lots of books for that summer read. By the way, it's Mother's Day weekend. Maybe mom wants some good novels to read in her spare time! If you see Joan Moes, wish her a happy retirement. She's leaving as head honcho at the Literacy Volunteers. She will be missed. Those are big shoes to fill. Dotti Carter is taking over the helm.

Submitted: Dotti Carter

Announcements

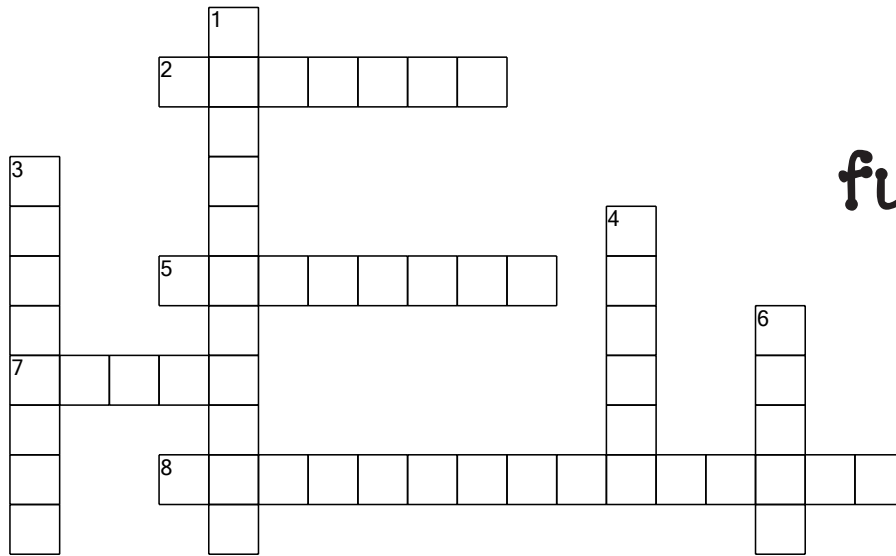
Friends of the Highland Mountains

On Sunday, May 1, the Friends of the Highland Mountains will hold a meeting at the New Portland Community Library, River Road (Rt. 146 beside the New Portland Town Office) at 2:00 pm. Please join us as we discuss the current wind energy plan for the mountains surrounding our communities, including the Highland wind development currently being reviewed by LURC. All are welcome, and refreshments will be provided. Call Karen at 628-2070 or Alan at 628-2014 for more information.

East New Portland Cemetery Association

A meeting of the East New Portland Cemetery Association will take place on May 11 at the fire station in the meeting room at 6:00 pm.

Submitted: Mike Malesky



**Have a
fun and safe
Memorial
Day!**

ACROSS

- 2. One who served in the military
- 5. Of or pertaining to soldiers, to arms, or to war
- 7. Flat piece of inscribed metal given as an honor or reward
- 8. Proclaimed as the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson

DOWN

- 1. A day for remembering and honoring those who died while serving in the military
- 3. A flag placed halfway up a mast or pole as a symbol of mourning for the dead
- 4. A formal military gesture of respect
- 6. To show respect for

Memorial Day	Veteran	Honor	Half-mast
Military	Salute	Medal	Waterloo, New York

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NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR
MAY 2011



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Friends of the Highland Mountains 2:00 pm	2	3 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	4 School Board 6:00 pm Planning Board 6:30 pm	5	6	7 Town Office Open 8:00 am - Noon Children's Activity Day NPCL - 6:30 pm Literacy Book Sale Elks Lodge-W. Farmington
8 Literacy Book Sale Elks Lodge-W. Farmington <i>Mother's Day</i>	9	10 Library Board 6:00 pm NPF 6:30 pm	11 East New Portland Cemetery Association Fire Station Mtg Room 6:00 pm Water District 7:00 pm	12 Book Club 6:30 pm NPCL Knitwits 10:00 am NPCL	13	14
15 Snow-Travelers Fire Station Mtg Room 6:30 pm	16 Tax Bids Due by 5:00 pm Town Office Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	17	18 Activity Night: SWAP 6:30 - 7:30 pm NPCL	19	20	21
22	23 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	24 NPF 6:30 pm	25 Recreation Committee Community Room 6:30 pm	26 Knitwits 10:00 am NPCL	27	28
29	30 MEMORIAL DAY	31				