

WHEELOCK NEWS



Wheelock Community Initiative on the Web: <https://wheelockcmty.org/> and on Facebook!
Email: wheelockcmty@gmail.com Phone: 802-626-3109, leave message



Meeting notices are on the Town Hall message boards and the town website at

<https://townofwheelockvt.org/>

You can also join **Selectboard and Planning Commission meetings** by phone or Internet.

On the town website click on the **“Government”** tab, then click on **“Agenda & Minutes”**

Each meeting agenda document lists **unique** phone numbers, Zoom links, meeting IDs, and passcodes

K. E. S.D. 2026 Annual Meeting

Monday March 2, 5:00 PM

Hilton Hall, 64 Campus Lane, Lyndon Ctr

The six articles to be voted on by Australian ballot are outlined at:

<https://bit.ly/4qT4doO>

Polls @ Wheelock Town Hall

Open 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. on March 3

**WHEELOCK TOWN HALL
2026 TOWN MEETING *in person***

Tuesday March 3 9:00 AM

Regular Selectboard Meeting

Tuesday March 17 6:00 PM

to attend this meeting remotely see the details at the top of the column

PLANNING COMMISSION

Updating the Wheelock Town Plan

March 11 10:30 AM

Wheelock Town Hall

Details @ <https://bit.ly/4qTq4DT>



Wheelock Community Initiative

Thurs. Mar. 12, 2:30 PM

In person at Town Hall

All are welcome!



Selectboard News and Notes

Town Meeting has been a large focus for the Selectboard and Clerk/Treasurer since December: finalizing budgets and assembling reports, while still addressing all the usual business of running town government. A review of the 2025 fiscal year and the vision for the 2026 one are laid out in the **“Town of Wheelock 2025 Annual Report”**. Hard copies are available at Town Hall and the Wheelock Village Store or can be viewed online at <https://bit.ly/4box7yp>. *(A summary of the Town Meeting warning is on p.2 of this newsletter.)* The report is a handy resource with a wide range of important information useful for the whole year.

The only Australian ballot items relate to the Kingdom East School District *(a summary of that warning is also on p.2)*. If you are unable to vote in person on Town Meeting Day *(polls open 10 am - 7 pm)*, Vermont makes it easy to vote early or by absentee ballot. All registered voters may request an early or absentee ballot through their Town Clerk.

Winter driving has been especially challenging this year, which brings a focus on road conditions and Wheelock’s readiness to address them. Facing an estimated \$40,000 transmission repair for the 2007 Volvo grader, the Selectboard voted to buy a new, John Deere 672 PE grader, with a \$25,000 trade in on the 2007. A warned article at Town Meeting seeks to raise \$20,000 for the Road Equipment Fund (which has a balance of \$65,894.60). The Wheelock Community Initiative will have coffee and tea available for Town Meeting! *Donation\$ appreciated!* We are seeking additional volunteers who are willing to contribute some goodies for the meeting. If you are willing, please drop us a quick email: wheelockcmty@gmail.com



Selectboard:

Ann Lawless, Chair
Mike Richardson
Chuck Dill

Planning Commission News & Notes

Planning Commission members are interested in your impressions about living in Wheelock and your ideas about our community’s future. They have drafted a comprehensive survey for Wheelock residents to complete. A good response rate will provide them with important information to include in our new Town Plan. The survey will be available online soon and it is the easiest way to complete it. Paper copies of the survey will be introduced at Town Meeting. Then they will be available at Town Hall during office hours and the Wheelock Village Store during operation hours.



Commission:

Kim Hathaway, Chair
Carol Amos
Meaghan Rinehart
Theresa Stimpson

Town Clerk/Treasurer: Erin Swigart

Hours: Tues./Thurs. 8:30-3:00; Wed. 10:30-5:30

Email: wheelocktown@gmail.com **Phone** 802-626-9094

P.O. Box 1328, 1192 Route 122, Wheelock VT 05851

GOT HISTORY?

There's no time like the present to learn more about Wheelock's past.

Native Son

Ozias Danforth Mathewson was born in Wheelock March 10, 1864. He attended the village school, then studied at Hardwick and St. Johnsbury Academies, and completed his preparation for college at Lyndon Institute. He graduated from Dartmouth with an B.A. degree in 1890 and an M.A. in 1893. Before his graduation from college he taught several terms at district schools, his first at South Wheelock in the **Old Red Schoolhouse**. During the years 1885 to 1888 he served as Superintendent of Wheelock Schools.

In 1890 he became principal of Spaulding and combined the office with Barre Schools Superintendent until 1912, when he was called to become principal of Lyndon Institute, at the request of **Theodore Vail**. He held this post until he retired in 1943.

Ozias was very active in state education affairs serving on numerous commissions and boards. Locally he served as president of **Lyndon Institute** Trustees, 1931 to 1944. Honorary degrees recognized his service (UVM, Middlebury, Norwich, Dartmouth).



*"In scholarly attainment, in wise administration and efficient service, he stands in the front rank of Vermont schoolmasters."**

After making his home in Lyndon, he was active in town affairs, serving in many political and business capacities. In 1932-1934 he represented Lyndon in the Legislature and in 1936-1938 he was the Caledonia County State senator.

His first wife Angie Kelley died in 1907. His second marriage was to Grace Hoyt in 1909. She was a direct descendant of **Barnard Hoyt**, one of Wheelock's first settlers. They had three children.

Ozias D. Mathewson died in Lyndon Center in 1944; his papers are stored at the Vermont Historical Society. E.J. Hutchinson relied on them for her "**Town of Wheelock**" history.

* *The Vermonter* (1901, p. 234.)

"Town of Wheelock; Vermont's Gift to Dartmouth College" E.J. Hutchinson, 1961

2026 Town Meeting Warning

The **2026 Town Meeting booklet** is available at Town Hall during office hours and at the Wheelock Village Store. The following is a **summary** of the warned articles for Town Meeting; the complete version is available on the Town's website at <https://bit.ly/3MCMUu2>.

- 1: Elect a **moderator** for the ensuing year.
- 2: Hear the **reports** of the Town Officials.
- 3: Elect **all town officers** required by law.
 - 3 year terms:** Town Clerk, Treasurer, Selectboard, Lister, Auditor
 - 1 year terms:** Delinquent Tax Collector, 1st Constable, 2nd Constable
- 4: **General fund** expenditures for operating expenses of \$308,162.76 of which \$ 214,568.76 shall be raised by taxes and \$93,594.00 by non-tax revenues?
- 5: **Highway fund** expenditures for operating expenses of \$558,502.40 of which \$449,466.40 shall be raised by taxes and \$109,036.00 by non-tax revenue?
- 6: \$10,000 for the **Bridge Repair & Replacement** and/or **Major Road Repair Fund**?
- 7: \$20,000 for the **Road Equipment Replacement Fund**?
- 8: \$10,000 for the **Long-Term Facilities Maintenance & Repair Fund**?
- 9: \$30,000 for deposit into the **Town Hall Project Fund**?
- 10: Establish a reserve fund to be known as the **Disaster Reserve Fund** to be used for highway fund expenses resulting from a significant disaster event?
- 11: Transfer \$30,000 from unassigned funds to the **Disaster Reserve Fund**?
- 12: Authorize \$1,416 for the town's share of the **Planning Grant**?
- 13: Authorize the Treasurer to collect taxes on or before **October 15, 2026**, and with delinquent taxes having interest charges of one percent (1%) per month, and with a seven percent (7%) penalty charged against them from the due date pursuant to 32 V.S.A. Sec. 5136?
- 14: Allow a **grace period** from the due date for current taxes to Dec. 9, 2026, during which the Delinquent Tax Collector shall charge 1% penalty on payments made in full.
- 15: \$300.00 to **Caledonia Home Health Care & Hospice**
- 16: \$500.00 to **Darling Inn Senior Meal Site**
- 17: \$300.00 to **Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging**
- 18: \$1,622.00 to **Northeast Kingdom Human Services**
- 19: \$300.00 to **Northeast Kingdom Youth Services**
- 20: \$1,422.00 to **Rural Community Transportation**
- 21: \$600.00 to **Umbrella**
- 22: \$1,200.00 for **Cobleigh Public Library**
- 23: \$1,133.00 for **Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium**
- 24: \$1,000.00 for **Powers Park**
- 25: To transact any other non-binding business that comes before the meeting.
- 26: **To adjourn.**

Kingdom East Unified Union School District

The following is a **summary** of the warned **Australian Ballot** articles to be voted on Town Meeting Day; the complete articles are available on the Kingdom East School District website at <https://bit.ly/4qT4doO>

- 1: To elect officers for one year.
- 2: To approve compensation, for District Officers.
- 3: To elect nine (9) school directors of varied term lengths: (1) Burke; (1) Concord; (2) Lunenburg; (3) Lyndon; (1) Newark; (1) Sheffield
- 4: Approve a budget of \$53,401,362 for the ensuing fiscal year (per pupil education spending of \$14,867; a 7.99% increase over the current fiscal year)
- 5: Authorize transfer of surplus funds, if any, to 3 reserve funds.
- 6: Authorize accepting and expending grant monies.

THE POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM.