



WHEELOCK NEWS

Wheelock Community Initiative on the Web: <https://wheelockcmtv.org/> **and on Facebook!**

Email: wheelockcmtv@gmail.com **Phone:** 802-626-3109, leave message



Meeting notices are on the Town Hall message boards and online

<https://townofwheelockvt.org/>

Join **regular Selectboard meetings** by phone or remotely.

On the town website click on the **"Government"** dropdown tab, then **"Agenda & Minutes"**

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

SELECTBOARD MEETINGS

- **For the Month of October**
Thursday October 9 & Tuesday October 21 @6:00 PM
Wheelock Town Hall
or attend remotely (see link above)

Wheelock Community Initiative



Thurs. Oct. 9, 2:30 PM
In person at Town Hall
All are welcome!

SHEFFIELD FOOD PANTRY

Weds. Oct. 8 & 22
11:30 - 1:00

Sheffield Town Hall

Tammy Jacoby, Manager



THE 120th PLAYING OF
"THE GAME"
between

LYNDON INSTITUTE

& ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY

Saturday October 25 @1:00 PM

Fairbanks Field @ L.I.



Selectboard News and Notes

In addition to the many details and documents related to Wheelock's FEMA reimbursement requests for infrastructure damage, the Town was selected by the Vermont Dept. of Public Safety (DPS) for a "financial monitoring" evaluation.

DPS reviewed a 2023 FEMA project to determine if the town complied with State and Federal requirements for procurement, conflict of interest/ethics, and contract documents. The town was not in compliance, but with guidance from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), DPS approved the town's revised policies and documents, which are available on the town website at <https://townofwheelockvt.org/town-docs/>

Wheelock's delinquent tax collector, Emily Purdy, attended the Sept. 2 Selectboard meeting and reported that delinquent tax balances have decreased to \$59,894 with a recent recovery of \$41,000. Town Clerk, Erin Swigert, will help Emily with the needed skills to enter the tax information directly into the town software system. This work will improve the timeliness and accuracy of reports that depend on this data.

Update on Town-wide Property Reappraisal

The appraisers working on Wheelock's town reappraisal project report they are moving into the steps of data entry, sales analysis, and development of new schedules. They are on schedule to complete the reappraisal for the 2026 Wheelock Grand List.

It is important to note that if a property owner is eligible for a property tax credit or 'income sensitivity payment', the credit is based on the prior year. New property assessments go into effect in the year following a reappraisal (in this case, 2026). A property owner will get the income sensitivity payment based on the previous year values, **not** the current year with the increased property value. The State of Vermont is not making any changes to address this payment lag.

Legislation requires all towns to complete a town-wide reappraisal every six years. This work can only be done by persons **certified** by the Vt. Tax Department (so the NEMRC group has been contracted). The State of Vermont is not increasing the annual state payment for reappraisals (\$5000 a year). Wheelock may need to raise additional monies each year for the reappraisal services reserve account.

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



Selectboard:

Ann Lawless, Chair

Mike Richardson

Chuck Dill



GOT HISTORY?

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

Old Red Schoolhouse

The 'dedication souvenir' booklet dated Tuesday June 22, 1915 "**Those Were the HAPPY DAYS**" marked the closing of the South Wheelock school to students.

An excellent scan of the booklet, written by the "Old Red Schoolhouse Association" can be found under the WCI's website's "More" tab@ <https://wheelockcmty.org/>.



Old Red Schoolhouse

"This little book is dedicated to the tender and cherished memories of schoolmates, who were students in this

section, and the "Old Red Schoolhouse" in South Wheelock, Vermont. Also to one hundred and eighty teachers, who led these boys and girls in the quest of knowledge." There are photos and remembrances for some of the "(other) schoolhouses which sheltered them, (that) have long since returned to the elements of nature from whence they came."



The Old Mountain School

The Old Chandler (Pond) School



The booklet provides a heartfelt tribute to the many teachers and alumni connected to Wheelock's early schools with their portraits, some biographies, and poetry. Members of the association, some you will recognize as prominent figures in Wheelock's early history, are also honored.

NVDA 2026 Regional Plan Update

Weigh in on the next [NEK Regional Plan](#) and get involved in the planning process this fall. Reply to the **Northeastern Vermont Development Association's** quick [survey](#) (less than 5 minutes) for a chance to win one of the grand prizes: an Electric [Lawn Mower](#) or Electric [Chainsaw](#) (worth ~\$800)!

The winner will be announced this November.



Wheelock Seeks Planning Commission Members

The Wheelock Selectboard seeks people willing to be appointed to a three-year term on the town's planning commission. A commission is usually made up of three to nine members and their primary duty is to prepare and amend the municipal plan.

Our current **2019 Town Plan** will expire soon so it needs an update. It is posted at <https://bit.ly/3VPaYL3>

Sheffield recently completed an update to their town plan with a five-member commission and the assistance of an NVDA specialist. They met once a month during the 2024 calendar year to complete their plan.

The Wheelock selectboard will be seeking a Municipal Planning Grant to **hire a planning specialist** to help us with this rewrite. The grant application is due soon, so setting up the planning commission is key.

Planning commissions may also take on other activities related to their role as leaders of the community on planning matters, including holding public hearings to determine future needs of the town, conducting surveys, holding discussion forums, and educating the public about current issues facing the town.

The town plan should bring a helpful long-term perspective to day-to-day decision-making. Ideally our commission will work to represent all community members and interests by including other public officials, businesses, interest groups, civic groups, and citizens in their work.

Contact Ann Lawless: alawless.townofwheelockvt@gmail.com

NEW Free, Online Home Energy Assessment Tool

We all know that these "California weather days" of endless sunshine and warmth will be coming to an end (with some rain, we hope!). Months of heating and lighting your home lie ahead, and energy costs are climbing and projected to rise more this winter.



The **Vermont Home Energy Profile (VHEP)** is a **free**, online home energy assessment tool that grants homeowners and homebuyers a clear and standardized report of a home's energy usage, projected costs, and opportunities for efficiency improvements, **all in under ten minutes**.

Homeowners can use VHEP for free to learn more about their home's energy profile. Technical support for your next steps is available through **Efficiency Vermont** and **ClearlyEnergy**.

Learn more at: <https://bit.ly/3Vexruz>