

# WHEELLOCK NEWS



Wheelock Community Initiative on the Web: <https://wheelockcmty.org/> and on Facebook!  
Email: [wheelockcmty@gmail.com](mailto: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

### COMPLETE YOUR SURVEY

**By Wednesday April 1**  
<https://bit.ly/4rkI4oQ>

### ANNUAL DOG LICENSES

• **\$2 late fee after April 1**  
By mail or in-office; give the Town Clerk your rabies vaccination proof & fee; then you will receive the cert & tag.

**\$15** for spayed/neutered dogs  
**\$19** for un-spayed/un-neutered dogs  
Additional fees & possible impoundment for unlicensed dogs

### SELECTBOARD MEETINGS

**Tues. April 7 and 21 @ 6:00 PM**  
to attend this meeting remotely see the details at the top of the column

### PLANNING COMMISSION

*Updating the Wheelock Town Plan*

**April 8 10:30 AM**

**Wheelock Town Hall**

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



**WHEELLOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE @ Town Hall**  
**Thurs. April 9, 2:30 PM**

### HOMESTEAD DECLARATION FILING DEADLINE

**Wed. April 15**

<https://tax.vermont.gov/homestead-declaration>



### Selectboard News and Notes

**T**own Meeting '26 had a smaller attendance than in recent years. Attendees were fortified with coffee and a wide assortment of baked goods provided by WCI and several volunteers. **Thank you!** Senator Beck, and Representatives Feltus and Quimby visited briefly and gave brief remarks early in the meeting. **Peter Miller** accepted the moderator role and **Mike Richardson** was re-elected to the Selectboard.

**Erin Swigart** was re-elected to serve as Town Clerk and Treasurer. No one was elected to fill Kathy Schmidt's lister's position. Her recent death was noted, as was appreciation for her long service. *(The Selectboard can appoint another lister to join Carol Rossi and Atti Seguin—applications are welcome.)*

**Enid Ellis** was re-elected joining auditors Kim Crady-Smith and Scott Lange. **Emily Purdy** stepped down from many years serving as delinquent tax collector; **Theresa Stimpson** will assume the role. **Owen Montgomery** will serve as first constable; second constable role is vacant.

All the “money articles” supporting the town needs (Articles 4-12) passed without controversy and with the Selectboard offering helpful background information. The tax collection process proposed in Articles 13/14 was met with some concern and Erin provided an explanation for the changes.

Articles 16-24 raising monies for local services and not-for-profits all passed. Hard copies of the Town Report are still available at Town Hall in hard copy or can be viewed online at <https://bit.ly/47fiS6C>

### Planning Commission News & Notes

**T**he Commission welcomed Kim Crady-Smith as a new member to the project. Commissioners want **your ideas** on shaping our town's future!

Here are three ways you can get involved:

- Attend a monthly meeting (2nd Wednesdays @10:30);
- Complete the **survey by April 1.**



Do it online at <https://bit.ly/4rkI4oQ> or use a paper copy available at either Town Hall or the Wheelock Village Store

• **Save the Date!** Attend the community meeting on **May 16.** You can share a meal, learn about the survey results, and together with your neighbors imagine the future you want to see for our town.

**Town Clerk/Treasurer: Erin Swigart**  
**New Hours Starting April 7! Tues., Wed., Thurs.**

**8:00 am -3:00 pm or by appointment**

Email: [wheelocktown@gmail.com](mailto: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



**Commission:**  
Carol Amos, Chair  
Kim Hathaway  
Meaghan Rinehart  
Theresa Stimpson  
Kim Crady-Smith

**GOT HISTORY?**

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

**Wheelock Hollow**

As our Selectboard considers options to address the Fall Brook bridge flood damage and how the Millers Run flows through the village, we look back on when the waterway was crucial to the town's early development and the village industries along its banks.



**Rennie's Sawmill**

The story of the mills and water privileges in the village was a complicated and changing one. This part of town had been part of Sheffield and was allocated to Wheelock, so that the latter could have better water power. It gave rise to the saying "Wheelock got Sheffield's boot and it was a good piece of town cobbling."



**Mills on Miller's Run**

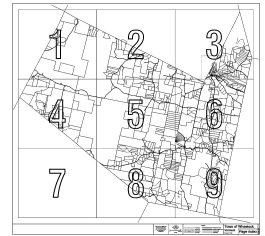
A cabinet shop was built at the dam at the upper end of the village in the mid-1800s; and frequently remodeled into a sawmill, a wheelwright and general repair shop, and a coopers shop before being destroyed by fire. At the next dam below was the original village grist mill and across the stream on the south side was a sawmill. It was badly damaged in the great flood of October 1869 and never rebuilt.

On the third dam on the north side was the Wheelock Manufacturing Company, (built 1831) run as a co-op by farmers in the village. They produced gray wool "full cloth," used mostly for men's pants and at one time employed "over forty hands".

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

**2026 Town-Wide Reappraisal**

Towns are required to conduct a town-wide reappraisal every 6 years. The cost for the 2026 project was -. \$65,000 (there is no state aid, the cost is born by the town).



In the next few weeks, Wheelock property owners will receive letters providing important information about the next steps in the process. Our listers estimate that based on Wheelock's real estate sales in the past three years, every property will see a 35% increase in value.

It is important to note, however, that **70% of Wheelock residents receive state income sensitivity adjustments**; so your household income affects the tax on your home and two acres.

Property owners have the right to grieve their property's assessed value. A grievance must be stated in writing and filed with the Town Clerk. Grievance hearings will be held in late May or in June.

**Kingdom East Budget Vote**

The proposed FY27 budget for the **Kingdom East School District (KESD)** did not pass on Town Meeting Day. The preliminary, unofficial results are: 632 Yes and 730 No; with 1,362 total votes, which is a very low turnout. (*Ballots are co-mingled, so there is no tally of Wheelock votes.*) All other warned articles passed. The Schoolboard is developing a new budget proposal and considering **Tuesday, April 28**, for the next vote on a revised budget. The board returned Lindsay Carpenter of Lyndon to the role of board chair and Pat Shine of Concord as vice chair.

**Grant Application Public Hearing**

A public hearing is one of the requirements set by the State of Vermont before requesting a planning grant under the Vermont **Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG)**. Officials and residents joined the hearing on the evening of February 17.

Wheelock is applying for a **\$60,000 planning grant** to secure funds for a Hydrology and Resilience Project. The grant would enable the town to hire an engineering firm to conduct studies to explore alternate repair scenarios and provide cost estimates. The findings will be shared at a public meeting in December so taxpayers and town leaders can discuss how to proceed. The study area includes the Millers Run in the village from the twin bridges on Peak Rd., by the town garage and Village Store, an area susceptible to repeated flooding, to Fall Brook Rd. bridge, which had to be closed after the 2025 flooding. Culverts at Vertical Mile Rd. and Morgan Road East will also be included, as will Minister Hill Bridge, as funds permit. See the draft grant proposal on the Town's website at: <https://bit.ly/47Mj79s>.

If this project is funded and completed, the town may then apply next year for an implementation grant to fund repairs or rebuilding.

**Green Up Day, Saturday May 2**

**Mark your calendar!** The winter's snow banks hide lots of trash and recyclables; so it will take a community-wide effort to spruce up roadways. Details will be in our April newsletter!