



# WHEELOCK 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 online at

<https://townofwheelockvt.org/>

Join **regular Selectboard meetings** by phone or Internet. On the town website click on the “**Government**” tab, then “**Agenda & Minutes**”

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

## PUBLIC HEARING TO DECLASSIFY WELCH RD.

**Tues. Jan. 6 5:30 PM**

Wheelock Town Hall  
or attend remotely (see above)

## SELECTBOARD MEETINGS

**Tuesday Jan. 6**

*Starts when the public hearing adjourns*

**Tuesday Jan. 20 6:00 PM**

Wheelock Town Hall  
or attend remotely (see above)

## DEADLINE TO SUBMIT TOWN REPORT MATERIALS

**Tuesday Jan. 6**

## PLANNING COMMISSION

*Updating Town Plan*

**Wednesday Jan. 14 10:30 AM**

Wheelock Town Hall  
or attend remotely (see above)

## SHEFFIELD FOOD PANTRY

**Weds. Jan. 14 & 28  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

Sheffield Town Hall  
Tammy Jacoby, Manager  
call/text 802-397-4929



## Wheelock Community Initiative

**Thurs. Jan. 8, 2:30 PM**  
In person at Town Hall

*All are welcome!*



## Selectboard News and Notes

The December **public hearing** to declassify a portion of Welch Rd., has been rescheduled by the Selectboard for **Tue. Jan. 6 @ 5:30 pm.** in Town Hall (or remotely). The meeting is part of a process that may ultimately remove the town's responsibility for maintaining it. See the [Nov. Wheelock News](#) for details.



### Selectboard:

Ann Lawless, Chair  
Mike Richardson  
Chuck Dill

### Thank you, Selectboard!

It has been a long year for Chuck Dill, Ann Lawless, and Mike Richardson dealing with contract bids, loans, FEMA documents, invoices, photos, site visits, and details needed to **repair and maintain all our roads and bridges.** These tasks have taken a lot of the Selectboard's time, attention, and energy in 2025, and it is not likely to let up in 2026!



## Grant Funding Secured for Town Plan Update

The Planning Commission's work is getting a boost from a successful municipal grant submitted by the Selectboard to the State of Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development. The grant supports technical assistance from Alison Low, Senior Planner at NVDA. As part of their work, the Commission will **survey residents and hold community meetings.** WCI will help promote the Commission's activities via our newsletter/emails, and assist at their community meetings.

### Thank You, Donors...Again!

Back-to-back food drives in November and December for the Food Pantry, plus the added request for toys and art supplies, was met with a very generous response by our Wheelock friends and neighbors.



The **WCI Holiday Food and Toy Drive** collected 12 boxes of food and toys, plus \$440; making a total of \$1557 cash in 2025!

### Town Clerk/Treasurer: Erin Swigart

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

**Email:** [wheelocktown@gmail.com](mailto:wheelocktown@gmail.com) **Phone** 802-626-9094

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



**NOTE:** Delinquent payments must be paid directly to the town's delinquent tax collector rather than the Town Clerk/Treasurer. Contact Emily Purdy (802) 533-9929, email at: [wheelocktax@gmail.com](mailto:wheelocktax@gmail.com).

## GOT HISTORY?

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

### Early Wheelock Dowser

A document with a link to an early Wheelock ancestor was brought to our attention by Wheelock resident, Leigh Hurley.

The **History of ASD** (American Society of Dowsters), by Terry E. Ross II (1985), is his address to the Society on the 24th anniversary of their society's founding and its headquarters in Danville.

Ross begins his address describing a "seminal incident" for the society; the life and work of **Bezaleel\* Bemis** (sp.?) (There are various Bemis spellings, an early New England name, traced to Joseph who arrived in Massachusetts in **1619**).

Ross states that Bezaleel was born around 1800 in Wheelock and he "learned how to make water pipes and pumps. He also discovered he was an able and reliable dowsler."

Pipes and pumps were an improvement over open wells, so he made a good living as a technician installing these systems.

He had customers in a "territory extending north to Newport, west to Waterbury, and south to Woodstock." Ross reports that as he travelled, Bezaleel "saw the need along the roads for watering places for man and beast".

#### And he had a solution...

*"...For a few pennies he bought old barrels, which he cut into two to make tubs. Wherever he went he would find a spring in a likely place, make a turnout in the road, set up the tub, and pipe water to it.*

He dotted the area of his travels with these oases and would tack a Bible verse to a board over the tub. He was known throughout his territory as "Springwater Bemis". One was the All-Wright Spring on the North Danville Road."

Now called the **Allright Spring**, located at the extinct All-Wright Farm and water company. Due to nearby road construction there is no longer a spring, but the American Society of Dowsters is still in Danville. <https://dowsters.org/>

\***Bezaleel**, is a biblical name which has influenced naming in religious families; meaning "in the shadow of God," and belonging to the master craftsman of the Tabernacle in the Old Testament.

## NEK Career and Training Opportunities

If you are planning to change jobs or just improve your work skills in the coming year, there is an impressive number of low and no-cost training opportunities for adults in our area. Here's a sampling:

**St. Johnsbury Academy Adult Education:** Contact Sandra Mings Lamar for all course offerings: [sandra.mingslamar@stjacademy.org](mailto:sandra.mingslamar@stjacademy.org)

**Vermont State University Division of Workforce, Community and Economic Development** - Five Center & Program areas.  
View all online career training courses [Here](#).

**North Country Career Center**, Newport <https://nc3.ncsuvt.org/home>  
Contact Chris Damato (802) 334-5469 x3305 [Christian.damato@ncsuvt.org](mailto:Christian.damato@ncsuvt.org)

**Lyndon Institute Career & Technical Education Center:** [Here](#)  
Contact [David.Schilling@lyndoninstitute.org](mailto:David.Schilling@lyndoninstitute.org) or Michelle Parson, Work-based Learning Coordinator, [michelle.parson@lyndoninstitute.org](mailto:michelle.parson@lyndoninstitute.org).

## WHEELOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE 2025

**TOWN OF WHEELOCK: WCI's Partner**

**GREEN MT. BOOKS: Donations for "Welcome to Town" & Sympathy Baskets**

**TWO TAMALES & THE WHITE MARKET: Donations for "Welcome to Town" Baskets**

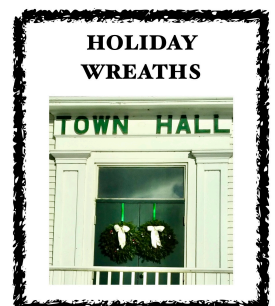
**CHANDLER POND FARM: Hosting a little library, food drive help**

**PAUL ST. JEAN: Repairing the Town Hall Little Library**

**LINDA RHODES: Town Hall Holiday Wreaths**

**DARLENE AHRENS: Handmade baskets**

**St. Johnsbury Academy Tech Ed Students: New little library**



**A small team with a mighty mission! New members always welcome!**

**Volunteers:** Enid Ellis, Ann Lawless, Marilyn Lincoln, Hélène Millas, Carolyn Nolan, Linda Rhodes, Pia Ward, Eileen Boland