



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 **"Agendas & Minutes"**

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

SELECTBOARD MEETINGS

Tues. July 7 and 21 @ 6:00 PM

to attend these meetings remotely see the details at the top of this column.

NOTE FOR JULY 7:

The Wheelock Selectboard Meeting will start right **after**

A Joint Meeting of the Sheffield and Wheelock Selectboards

Regarding transfer station changes

PLANNING COMMISSION

Updating the Wheelock Town Plan

Wed., July 8 10:00 AM

Wheelock Town Hall

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

WHEELOCK COMMUNITY

INITIATIVE @ Town Hall

Thurs. July 9, 2:30 PM

All are Welcome!

2026 ELECTION YEAR DATES

PRIMARY TUES. 8/11

Early voting period: 6/27 to 8/10

GENERAL ELECTION TUES.

11/3

Early voting period: 9/19 to 11/2

Selectboard News and Notes

Repairs to roads, culverts, and bridges; keeping track of the bidding, engineers, contractors, and the alphabet soup of grants to fund them, have been the main focus of recent meetings.

In addition to road projects, the FEMA buyout process of a South Wheelock Road property is near completion. The town is required to verify the property is vacant as soon as the owner moves out.

The property owner will be paid for the property on behalf of the town by Vermont Emergency Management with FEMA funding. VEM demolishes the buildings, recycling salvageable materials. The underlying land comes off the town's tax rolls and is permanently deed-restricted to be used exclusively as open space, wetland management, or public recreation (like a park) to prevent future disaster damage.

Homeowners on Class IV roads who may be planning to work on their roads this summer need to check the town's **Class IV Road and Trails Policy** <https://bit.ly/4w7cng8> Any work involving changing the flow of water or adding materials requires the Selectboard's prior approval.

Transfer Station Transition to Stickers

The transfer station transition from pre-printed trash bags to the \$3 per trash bag stickers has not been generally well received. Since the transfer station is a joint operation managed by both Sheffield and Wheelock, there will be a joint Selectboard meeting to review the issues. (See the calendar sidebar.) Town clerks for both towns and the Wheelock Village Store sell the stickers. You can still use the pre-printed bags if you have them at no extra charge. The Wheelock town clerk still has some pre-printed bags for sale until the supply runs out.

Delinquent Taxes and Tax Sale

At the June 16th Selectboard meeting delinquent tax collector Teresa Stimpson submitted a delinquent tax report to the Selectboard. She requested and received authorization to engage an attorney to initiate a tax sale for three properties. They have been delinquent for over a year with no payments or agreements made. There has been no contact with the property owners even after multiple efforts. Other delinquent tax payments have been made.

Town Clerk/Treasurer: Erin Swigart

New Hours! Tues., Wed., Thurs.

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

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.*

Early Celebrations

Many occasions were celebrated with annual town holidays such as **June Training Day*** and **January First** (*when the Dartmouth College president, or his agent, came to collect rents*).

The **Fourth of July** was celebrated yearly with at least opening with a devotional followed by more worldly festivities.

An early account of our **1812 July 4th** celebration is found in the **North Star**:

On the 4th instant, the citizens of Wheelock and some from neighboring towns convened to celebrate the joyful anniversary of American Independence at Col. Edward Fifield's house.

A procession formed under the direction of Col. Fifield, Marshal of the day, which was escorted by a company of militia with martial music to the meetinghouse, where an excellent sermon was preached by Elder Benj. Page, with the Declaration of Independence read, and a patriotic oration delivered by Samuel Fellow.

The exercises at the meetinghouse were concluded by prayer, and the procession returned to Col. Fifield's, where toasts were saluted by a volley of musketry. After the services of the day were closed, such as chose proceeded into the (town) hall and partook of an excellent repast.

***June Training Day** (the first Tuesday in June) reviewed the local militia. The **North Star** noted: *the "review" was somewhat short on military alertness and was considered more of a holiday.*

According to **Ferd Chase** (1840-1916): *"Drummer Miles, a quite aged man, on June Training Day would amuse the boys by tossing drumsticks in the air, catch them, and not miss a beat. Horace Silver, the fifer, would use a reed and smoke his pipe at the same time. Uncle Sam Allen, who had been an officer, and Judge Conner, made a beautiful quartet when fairly pickled and they usually got so when they met."*



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

Planning Commission Update

Combining feedback from the May 16th Community Meeting with the 100+ responses to the survey before it have given the Commission a lot of information about respondents' hopes and wishes for Wheelock's future.

It is challenging to summarize all this data into an action plan covering the next eight years, but there are some common themes emerging. We will highlight a few here and others in future editions of the newsletter.

Concern for our **town facilities**, such as the **Town Hall and town garage** were expressed in each forum, and were also identified in the 2019 Town Plan. Given the NEK's recent experience with back-to-back flooding over a recent three year period; moving the town garage out of the flood plain to a more energy efficient and environmentally safe space is a priority.

There were many comments concerning the Town Hall's poor physical condition, i.e., water in basement municipal space, energy inefficiency, and non-compliance with ADA requirements. Many residents with mobility challenges no longer attend Town Meeting because dealing with an outdoor porta-potty in any kind of weather, especially in March, is a considerable disincentive.

A need for a viable meeting space, whether at the current Town Hall or another town site, was frequently cited with a comment that "there is no sense of community without one." Respondents want an attractive, multi-use space suitable for a wide range of gatherings and activities such as craft fairs and farmers' markets—there was no shortage of ideas!

Kingdom East S.D. 2027 Budget Passes

The Kingdom East School District voters approved the district school budget on June 11, on a third vote, Yes: 969; No: 944

Residents in the district, which includes the towns of Burke, Concord, Lunenburg, Lyndon, Miller's Run (Sheffield, Wheelock), Newark, and Sutton approved a \$53 million budget, a -6% change from last year. In the negotiation process, the district cut 27 vacant staff roles and reduced its transportation, tech supplies, and athletics costs.

A request for a recount of the ballots was received by the district clerk on June 19, 2026. The recount took place on June 23 and confirmed the original results from the June 11 vote. To the relief of students and parents alike, it allowed the district's summer programs to start on time.

Summer Food Drive Success-Thank you!

Wheelock residents made a significant donation - **12 very large boxes** of non-perishable food for the Sheffield Food Pantry, which also serves

Wheelock residents. Cash donations totaled **\$705!**

In all, a great boost for the Pantry to help our neighbors in need during the summer months. **Pantry Contact Number:** 802-397-4929.



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

