



WHEELOCK NEWS

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

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



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

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

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

The agenda for each meeting lists **unique** phone numbers, Zoom links, meeting IDs, and passcodes

PLANNING COMMISSION

Photo Contest Ends Wed. Sept. 30

Meets to update the Wheelock Town Plan on

Wed. Oct. 7 8:30 AM

Wheelock Town Hall

Meeting agenda & minutes at:

<https://townofwheelockvt.org/meetings/>

WHEELOCK BICENTENNIAL

VIDEO SCREENING

Sunday October 4

2:00 PM

Wheelock Town Hall (See p. 2)

SELECTBOARD MEETINGS

Tues. October 13 & 20 @ 6:00 PM

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

SHEFFIELD FOOD PANTRY

2nd & 4th Weds. 10/14 & 10/28

11:30-2:30

Sheffield Town Hall

Contact number: 802-397-4929

PROPERTY TAXES DUE

Thurs. Oct. 15 by 5 PM

Office Hours 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Additional office hours:

Wed. Oct. 7 10:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Selectboard News and Notes

Recent visitors to Town Hall are entering a busy construction zone. St. Johnsbury Career and Technical education students are working on an extensive electrical rewiring project under the direction of their teacher, Jeremy Roberts. It has been bit challenging for office staff to work around this disruption, but the improvements will be appreciated. The basement ceiling had to be removed to run new lines, which creates an opportunity to assess the building's structural supports, floor joists, and beams. The Selectboard authorized Carol Rossi seek grants from the Preservation Trust of Vermont for this evaluation.



Selectboard:

Ann Lawless, Chair
Mike Richardson
Chuck Dill

Summer and Fall Road Projects Shaping Up

Grant-funded projects on Buchler Road have been completed, as well as grading on the Class 4 section of Minister Hill to prevent further deterioration before the hydrology assessment of the Minister Hill Bridge is completed (funded by the CDBG grant). Other grading and chloride spraying projects for fall are currently underway. It's not too early to plan for winter plowing. Road Commissioner/Selectboard member, Chuck Dill, will be in touch with our contractors from last season. FEMA-funded projects on Boulay and S. Wheelock roads have not begun because of some uncertainty that FEMA will actually pay for them, so the Selectboard is seeking outside advice on how to proceed.



The Selectboard is recruiting and conducting interviews to fill the road crew position formerly held by Dayton Blake.

Thank you, Dayton, for a job well done!

Tax Bill Payments Due by October 15 @ 5 PM

As noted on the 2026 tax bills, there are some important changes in how and when taxes will be collected, as well as the methods of payment. In addition to paying by check, either by mail or in person, paying online at <https://bit.ly/4ggoAak> is an option.

The online portal can accept either an electronic check (\$1.50 fee) or a credit card (a 2.65% fee on the amount). Fees go to the processor, taxes to the town. Our Town Clerk has posted some **extended office hours** if you want to pay in person (see the calendar column on the left).

Taxes received **after** the October 15 deadline will be considered delinquent. Postmarks are not proof of an on-time payment.

Town Clerk/Treasurer: Erin Swigart

New Hours! Tues., Wed., Thurs. 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Office hours changes for October listed in the calendar column

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.*

Stephen G. Cree

As noted in our August edition, Stephen G. Cree (1834-1917) had a long history in Wheelock even before his phonograph invention in 1886.

As recalled by Ferdinand (Ferd) Chase in 1915, around the time of the Soldiers' Monument dedication: "Of those of my day in the old schoolhouse by Salloway's Shop, there is but one here besides myself, who was born in the village. He comes from good, old Vermont parents, **Stephen G. Cree.**"

In addition to running a successful business in the village, and playing the violin at church, Cree served his community (10 years as town clerk, and one term in the Vermont House) and his country in "The War between the States".

As noted on our **Soldiers Monument** (*in front of Town Hall*), 86 went out from Wheelock, 30 did not return, three died in Andersonville, and one in Belle Isle. In 1915 only three survivors were living in town at the monument dedication, including Private Stephen G. Cree.

Soon after his service, in 1865 Cree bought Osborn and Daniel Ward's "Wheelock Threshing Machine Company".

He installed new machinery and maintained one of the best equipped machine shops in the county. The mill had three lathes, an iron planer, wood planer, a sawing machine and blacksmith tools. Wood sawing and threshing machines were also made there.

Later his son, Lucius manufactured flexible metal tubing in same location that was sold all over the the country.

"Town of Wheelock" E.J. Hutchinson, 1961



S. G. CREE SHOPS

Planning Commission Update

Wheelock's Planning Commission continues to meet monthly and with the help of NVDA staff, Alison Low and Sophie Phelan, they are refining the draft of a new Town Plan. **The Commission is announcing a photo contest** and is accepting entries of beautiful images of Wheelock to be published in the Town Plan. **Prizes will be awarded!** No AI images, please. Send submissions to wheelockpc@gmail.com.



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

An Invitation for You!

Did you or your family or friends live in Wheelock in 1985? Did you attend the **Wheelock's Bicentennial Celebration** - the big parade down Rte 122, followed by a field day of games, displays, performances, and great food? Or are you curious about it?

The WCI was recently gifted an amazing video of these events by the late Jack Dunphy's family and the WCI would like to share it with you! (Jack was known as an accomplished amateur videographer.) We had help editing the video from [Kingdom Access TV](http://KingdomAccessTV.com) in St. Johnsbury and Carolyn Nolan identified many of the adults and children from 40 years ago! We are holding a viewing of the video, along with some Kingdom Creamery ice cream, homemade treats, and good company on:



Sunday, October 4
2:00-4:00 PM
Wheelock Town Hall

We hope you will join us and share your memories!
RSVP appreciated so we have enough treats for everyone.
wheelockcmty@gmail.com

NEKCV Broadband Update

The **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)** is a \$42.45 billion federal grant initiative designed to expand high-speed internet infrastructure to unserved and underserved communities across the United States.



The allocations for Vermont (roughly \$229 million) and the NEKBB project (~\$66 million) have yet to be awarded. The various funding sources for the entire project are **assigned at the individual address level**, which sometimes creates situations where addresses right next to one other are eligible for the service at different times.

Until contracts are finalized and environmental reviews are completed, NEKBB is experiencing an unanticipated delay in getting the BEAD funding operational. The project does not have the green light yet to use these funds to "launch" service to any BEAD-eligible addresses.

If you are interested in fast, reliable, and low-cost* broadband service, be sure to visit <https://nekbroadband.org/> and sign up for up-to-date information. (*There are several levels of service and some price support programs available for low-income households.)