



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 and documents available on the Town Hall message boards and online:

<https://townofwheelockvt.org/>

REMOTE ACCESS INFO

By Phone: +1-646-931-3860

Meeting ID: 810 8003 1813

Passcode: 055553

By Zoom: <https://bit.ly/46HTPaW>

Meeting ID: 816 8294 5873

Passcode: 713864

SELECTBOARD MEETINGS

- **Tues. October. 15**
6:00 pm In-Person and Zoom
 Upstairs Wheelock Town Hall
 Zoom option also available (see above.)
 Meetings are twice a month
 Usually First and Third Tuesdays

SHEFFIELD FOOD PANTRY

Also serves Wheelock residents

- **2nd & 4th Wednesdays**
Oct. 9 & 23 11:30-1:00

WHEELOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

- **Thursday October 10 2:30 PM**
 Meets in person at Town Hall
 All are welcome!

TAX BILLS DUE

- **No later than Friday Nov. 1**
 Tax bills have been mailed
 Early payment is appreciated

2024 ELECTION DAY

- **Tuesday November 5**
 Ballots have been mailed to registered voters. You can return yours to the Town Clerk's office either by mail, or in person during office hours, or on election day.
POLLS OPEN 10 AM to 7 PM

Selectboard News and Notes

After two '500 year' flooding events in one month, the Selectboard shared a positive road report at their 9/17 meeting. All large jobs, with the exception of a section of the South Wheelock Road, are complete and roads are graded. Sutton Road ditching and clearing is in process and parts of the waterway along South Wheelock Road need debris removal.



Selectboard:

Ann Lawless, Chair
 Mike Richardson
 Scott Lange

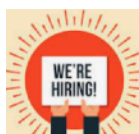
This remarkable turnaround was made possible by **many hours of volunteer time and sweat equity**. Town Clerk, Carol Rossi, noted "Our newly appointed Selectboard member, **Scott Lange**, stepped up from the early morning hours of July 11 to volunteer hundreds of hours of service to our community. **Glenn Cole** has to be applauded for all the work he did as road commissioner, temporary road worker, and volunteer. **Atti Seguin** came in the early hours of the morning and worked beside the clerk and janitor to get the water out of the town hall basement. **Dennis Sawyer** was called back in to operate the grader."

FEMA reimbursements for Wheelock's 2023 claims have been "obligated" (check arrival t.b.a.). The 2024 claims are a work-in-progress.

The Selectboard approved the town's application for a MERP Energy Implementation Grant for the Town Hall. Totaling \$62,750. It will provide updates to insulating and preventing air filtration: 20% of the grant must be used towards bringing the building up to ADA standards.

Opening for A Justice of the Peace Candidate

Raise your hand to ensure Wheelock has a full slate of **5 Justices of the Peace** (currently 4 on the ballot). A **write-in candidate** needs 30 votes or 1% of the registered voters, whichever is less, **or** defeat a named candidate on the ballot, **and** must get enough votes to rank in among the five seats available. Duties can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3S44c2r>.



Highway Working Supervisor or a Highway Maintenance Worker. Contact either the Town Clerk or the Selectboard for more information.

Town Clerk/Treasurer: Carol Rossi

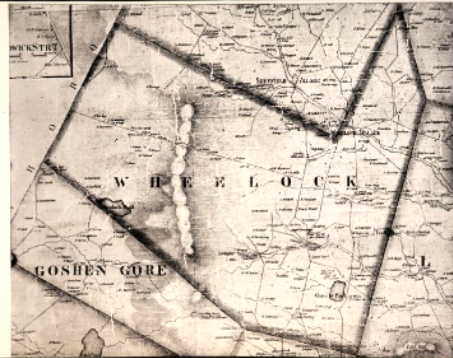
Hours: Tues./Thurs. 8:30-3:00; Wed. 10:30-5:30
Email: wheelocktown@gmail.com **Phone** 802-626-9094
P.O. Box 1328, 1192 Route 122, Wheelock VT 05851



GOT HISTORY?

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

“Swearing Off”



Wheelock, from H.F. Walling's map of Caledonia County, 1858

NOTE: Stannard was known as Goshen Gore

In the early 1800s, “swearing off” was a method of exempting land and buildings from taxation. It placed a disproportionate and heavy burden on the landless. By 1850, 166 Wheelock residents “swore off” their debts, with only 25 unable to do so.

In 1851, T.J. Cree presented a residents’ petition to the Trustees of Dartmouth College for relief from this unfair system. (The college owned Wheelock lands, so residents paid rent, as well as taxes to the State of Vermont.)

The Trustees then petitioned the Vermont Legislature for the power to sell all the college’s lands in Vermont. An act was passed by the Vermont Legislature in the same year allowing Wheelock tenants to buy their land.

This act, however, did not solve the burdened taxpayers’ problem, so in 1857 the residents sought relief from the Vermont Legislature. *“On Nov. 10, 1857 this body passed an act providing that the town could, by vote at each annual meeting direct the listers to include real estate in the grand list for the purpose of local taxation, the same to be appraised at its true value, subject to the rent reserved in the leases.”* (State Papers Volume VII, pp. 451-456)

“Town of Wheelock : Vermont’s Gift to Dartmouth College” by Eleanor Jones Hutchinson

Help With Property Taxes



The **Vermont Property Tax Credit** can help reduce your taxes if:

Your home is your primary residence, You've been a Vermont resident for all of 2023, and your household income is \$128,000 or less.

The maximum credit is \$5,600 for the education portion and \$2,400 for the municipal portion. To claim it, file a Homestead Declaration (Form HS-122) and a Property Tax Credit Claim by **April 15**. **If you missed this deadline, you can still file by October 15 with a \$15 late fee.**

For more info, visit the Vermont Department of Taxes at:

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

Free filing help is available through Vermont Legal Aid at:

<https://vtlawhelp.org/tax-help>.

Social Services Appropriation Requests

Each year Wheelock’s annual Town Meeting warning includes an article listing appropriation requests from various social services organizations. Those seeking **more** funding than the prior year, or those submitting **new** requests were required to file a petition with signatures from 5% of legal voters (30 voters).



The Selectboard has adopted a new policy **requiring all agencies seeking appropriations to submit petitions by 1/16/25** in order to appear on the Town Meeting warning. Each request will be listed as a separate article in the warning; the effect of this change (separate articles) will be reviewed after the 2025 Town Meeting.

Know Your Candidates



Vermont voters have several unbiased on-line resources about the election and the candidates. Some provide candidate profiles and where they stand on the issues, as well as candidate forums and debates.

VT Digger: <https://vtdigger.org/2024-general-election-guide/>

Vermont Public: <https://www.vermontpublic.org/election-2024>

Vermont League of Women Voters: <https://lwvofvt.org/>

WCI Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive

The **Sheffield Food Pantry serves the Sheffield, Wheelock, Sutton, and Newark communities.**

The Wheelock Community Initiative partners with the Pantry by collecting non-perishable food donations for Thanksgiving meal boxes for needy families. The Wheelock Town Hall basement is the collection site during the Town Clerk’s office hours on 10/22, 10/23, 10/24, 10/29, and 10/30. **Financial donations are welcome: each dollar goes far!** Mail checks to: Sheffield Food Pantry, P.O. Box 36, Sheffield, VT 05866. If you are seeking a meal box, contact Sara Camber, at saracamber68@gmail.com

