



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

<https://townofwheelockvt.org/>

REMOTE ACCESS INFO

By Phone: +1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 810 8003 1813

Passcode: 055553

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

Meeting ID: 816 8294 5873

Passcode: 713864

SELECTBOARD MEETINGS

- **Tuesday August 20**
6:00 pm In-Person and Zoom
 Upstairs Wheelock Town Hall
 Zoom option also available.
 3rd Tuesdays—May to September
 Meetings are twice a month October through April, dates TBD on 8/20

VACANCY TO FILL ASAP

The town is seeking to employ a **Highway Working Supervisor or a Highway Maintenance Worker.** Contact either the Town Clerk or the Selectboard for more information.

SHEFFIELD FOOD PANTRY

Also serves Wheelock residents

- **Wednesdays 11:30-1:00**
August 28
September 11

WHEELOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

- **Thursday Sept. 26 2:30 PM**
 Meets in person at Town Hall
 All are welcome!

Selectboard News and Notes

Selectboard members are working hard to address the damage to the town’s infrastructure from recent torrential rains, as well as managing the extraordinary cost of these repairs. Some, but not all, costs may be reimbursed by insurance or FEMA. Until then, the town will be securing a line of credit.



Selectboard:

Ann Lawless, Chair
 Mike Richardson
 Scott Lange



After two ‘500 year’ flooding events in one month, the damage to the town’s roads and bridges has been extensive and much greater than the July 2023 destruction (the town is still awaiting the final ’23 FEMA reimbursements). Progress depends on staffing (down to one highway worker) and the availability of materials and contractors that many other NEK are also seeking.

Although the town vault and records were spared, Town Hall and municipal offices are still in the process of drying out and mold mitigation. Town Clerk, Carol Rossi continues to keep regular hours during this difficult time.



NEK Clean Up: KURRVE (*Kingdom United Resilience and Recovery Effort*) reports that many people have stepped up to **volunteer**, but there is still great need. To join the volunteer pool, please fill out this webform <https://bit.ly/3AuWzw2>. If would like to be a **volunteer driver**, using your own private vehicle to assist flood victims with transportation challenges, please contact **Kirsten Sultan at sultanstowe@aol.com**



“Thank You” to **Sean Dernago**, highway maintenance worker, for your service keeping our roads open during some extraordinary weather events.

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



Public Service Opportunities

Seeking a **Lister for a 2-year term**. Please contact Carol Rossi or Atti Seguin, current listers, for information about the role. The position will be filled by a Selectboard appointment until the next Town Meeting. **Wheelock’s Planning Commission seeks a third member** to join Commission members Enid Ellis and Scott Lange.

GOT HISTORY?

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

Schoolhouse Destroyed

The General Assembly of Vermont passed an act on Oct. 31, 1797 requiring each organized town in the state to “keep and support a school, or schools, for the instruction of youth in English, reading, writing and arithmetick (sic).” **

Authority was given to divide the towns into as many school districts “as shall be judged most convenient.” These districts could be altered from time to time as the occasion required.

Wheelock was first divided into six districts, which grew to 8 districts by 1817, and to 12 districts by 1929 with small numbers of local children in each.



One of the remaining schoolhouses on Blakely Road was burned to the ground in Wheelock on Friday, July 19.

The Wheelock Fire Department was notified of a structure fire at 4:30 AM. When crews arrived, they found the building completely engulfed in flames.



Crews were able to put out the fire, but the structure was a complete loss.

According to officials, at the time of the fire, there were no inhabitants and no power to the structure. Investigators are considering the fire to be suspicious.

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

Wheelock Tax Rates Set

The VT Tax Department has set the state **Education Homestead tax** for Wheelock at 1.6637 and the **Non Homestead tax rate** at 1.7779.

With these numbers, the Selectboard has set the Wheelock 2024 tax rate: Highway Fund 0.6051; General Fund 0.3229; Local tax rate 0.0099 (Town share of Veterans exemption). They also voted to apply the FEMA reimbursement expected soon to reduce 2023 highway deficit and to use \$30,000 of ARPA funds to reduce the 2024 tax rate.

A 3% penalty rate was set for late Homestead Tax Filings (late filings of Homestead Declarations adds additional cost to the town).

The left side of the tax bill lists tax amounts for both the General Fund and Highway Fund.



Municipal:	0.9379 (2024)	0.8169 (2023)
Ed. Resident:	1.6637 (2024)	1.4787 (2023)
Ed. Homestead:	1.7779 (2024)	1.6294 (2023)

The Education Tax supports all levels of education in Vermont, not just our local schools, such as the state colleges and universities, all pre-school and K-12 schools, and other education programs across the state.

It is important to note that 70% of Wheelock receive “income sensitivity” adjustments (**reductions**) to their education fund tax rates based on their income. The tax bill education portion is listed on the right side of a the tax bill with any reduction listed as “state payment”.

Window Dressers Community Build

WindowDressers brings community volunteers together to improve the warmth and comfort of your home, lower heating costs, and reduce carbon dioxide pollution by producing low-cost insulating window inserts that function as custom, interior-mounted storm windows. They are free to you when you participate in the community build. Slots fill up fast!



Build Dates: Oct 17-23 2024

Location: Lyndon Municipal Bldg., 119 Park Ave, Lyndonville VT 05851

Contact: Pam Parker – plparkervt@gmail.com

Sign up to volunteer: [Click here to volunteer](#)

Help Is Needed For A New Little Library



The Little Library at the So. Wheelock fire station did not survive the winter! Our friends at **Chandler Pond Farm** have agreed to host one in a sheltered location on the porch of their store. We are looking for a donation of a replacement, new or second hand. For dimensions and more details, please contact WCI on Facebook or at wheelockcmty@gmail.com. **Thank you!**