



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 are on the Town Hall message boards and online <https://townofwheelockvt.org/>

You can join **regular Selectboard meetings** by phone or computer. On the town website click on the **“Government”** drop down, then **“Agenda & Minutes”**

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

VILLAGE STORE REOPENS UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

- Monday January 1

SELECTBOARD 2025 MEETINGS

- First & Third Thursdays
January 7 and 21
6:00 pm
Wheelock Town Hall

SHEFFIELD FOOD PANTRY Sheffield Town Hall

- Also serves Wheelock residents
- Wed. Jan. 8 11:30-1:00
Please bring your own boxes/bags

WHEELOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

- Thursday Jan. 9 2:30 PM
Meets in person at Town Hall
All are welcome!

ALL ENTRIES FOR THE TOWN REPORT DUE

- Wednesday January 15

Selectboard News and Notes

The State of Vermont awarded the town a substantial grant, **\$66,750**, under the **Municipal Energy Resilience Program** (MERP, Act 172), that has the potential to significantly reduce the annual energy costs for the Town Hall building. One of the goals is to improve the ‘thermal envelop’ of the windows. Swapping out the current dim lighting with LEDs will also reduce electric bills. Part of the plan is to have **St. Johnsbury Academy Career and Technical Education** students and their teacher do some wiring improvements to help address safety concerns.

A portion of the grant (**\$4000**) is set aside for the town to hold an **energy fair**. It will introduce easy, affordable home weatherizing options and the representatives from local Vermont organizations that can help you “button up” and save money. The Wheelock Community Initiative is assisting with organizing this project in the spring of 2025.

With the recent hire of **Dayton Blake** to one of the town’s two Highway Maintenance Worker positions, the crew is now fully staffed for the winter. To ensure the road equipment is also at full force for the season, the Selectboard is assessing some equipment rental options.



An extra-special thank you to **Carol Rossi**, who has served the Wheelock community in countless ways over many years! She submitted her resignation from the Town Clerk/Treasurer positions effective 1/1/2025. The Selectboard appointed Erin Swigart, to serve as Interim Town Clerk/Treasurer until Town Meeting ’25.

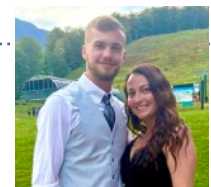


Selectboard:
Ann Lawless, Chair
Mike Richardson
Scott Lange



Village Store Reopening Update

New owners, Hannah Morris and Wyatt Moreau, are giving the store and deli a more extensive renovation. Their plan is to re-open it on January 1. The living spaces will become two apartments: one 2-bedroom unit and a 3-bedroom one.



Interim Town Clerk/Treasurer: Erin Swigart

Starting 1/1/2025



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.

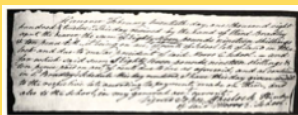
Happy New Year?

Early Wheelock settlers rang in the new year meeting with the agents appointed to collect land rents in support of Dartmouth College. This arrangement was key to the institution's survival. The collection accounts were closely monitored by the college's treasurers and presidents. If anyone was short, there was a direct consultation with the college president about it. No rent receipt could be given for the new year's amount due if the prior year was still in arrears.

Correspondence between Hanover and Wheelock was frequently very explicit: **PLEASE SEND WHAT MONEY YOU CAN. EXERT YOURSELF IN THE MATTER OF COLLECTIONS. THE NEEDS OF THE COLLEGE ARE PRESSING.**

The original method of payment was **"in silver at 6 shillings, 8 pence per ounce, or its equivalent in wheat or corn."** As more settlers chose to pay in grain, it was necessary for the College to build a Wheelock storehouse in 1807.

The agent took in wheat or corn as rent; stored it; sold it, where possible to the settlers for money; then turned over the money as it was accumulated.



1812 receipt for payment

In 1804, **Ezra Carter** of Peacham was chosen agent. He was a Dartmouth College graduate and was also engaged by the Trustees of the Caledonia County Grammar School to be its first preceptor, or principal, in 1797. Carter served as agent until 1811, and although he was present at the weighing of grains, he employed **Abner Hoyt, Jr.** of Wheelock to help with the collection.

"Town of Wheelock : Vermont's Gift to Dartmouth College"
by Eleanor Jones Hutchinson

Vermont C.A.R.E
(Citizen's Assistance Registry for Emergencies)

Emergencies can take many forms. Ice storms, floods, fires, major traffic accidents, and similar events can cause power outages, isolate individuals, or prompt the need for evacuation. If they last long, these events may become life-threatening for people with certain disabilities or other circumstances.

The **CARE program** was created to help Vermont emergency responders identify Vermonters who might need additional assistance in case of a wide-scale event. If you, or someone you know, might need such assistance in an emergency, there is an online registration for **CARE** at: <https://member.everbridge.net/453003085617576/login>. **Note:** the registration process is not easy. If you need assistance completing it, send an email to WCI at wheelockcmtty@gmail.com

The Vermont Town Plan Process

Vermont's Town Planning process runs on an eight year cycle. The purpose of a town plan is to guide local government decisions over that period. Wheelock's most recent Town Plan was adopted in 2019 <https://bit.ly/4gHRelc> It will need to be revised by **March of 2027**. The Selectboard will appoint interested residents to serve on a planning committee charged with completing a draft. After an 18-month process, our Sheffield neighbors have drafted their **new town plan** to be adopted by March 2025 <https://bit.ly/4o9bgQ9> Our communities share a school, fire department, transfer station, food pantry, and the Keniston-Dane education fund, so their planning process and final product can be helpful for Wheelock to consider.

2025 Increase in Dog License Fees



Effective January 1, the State of Vermont is increasing dog licenses fees by \$2.00. The license for a neutered/spayed dog will be \$11.; **not** neutered/spayed \$15. Every dog must be licensed every year with a valid rabies certificate on file with the Town Clerk.

🎄📦 **Successful Holiday Food and Toy Drive** 🎄📦

The WCI collected **\$510 in donations** and several boxes full of **food and toys** for the holiday drive. This was an extraordinary outcome after the recent, equally successful Thanksgiving drive. **Thank you** to all the generous contributors to this community effort!

