

# WHEELOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

The Wheelock Community Initiative (WCI) formed in September 2018. The group's mission is to build community in Wheelock, to encourage neighbors to get to know and trust one another, and to create economic and social opportunities for all residents including elders, families, working people, and non-residents to develop a vibrant town.

In 2019 WCI held four events, a Neighbor to Neighbor potluck in February; a Seed Swap with composting demonstrations and kids activities in April; a Sugaring Open House that included a raffle, sponsored by Chandler Pond Farm in April; and a community wide Yard Sale in collaboration with the Friends of Miller's Run School in June. In 2019 we also had the pleasure of working with Lyndon Institute graphic design student Emily Sherman who created our logo, marketing graphics and stationary.

In November we began planning 2020 events. The first project is two community forums on Wheelock's Future. The Vermont Council on Rural Development will facilitate the discussions, help our community set priorities, plan next steps and explore resources. On Saturday March 14 a 2020 Seed Swap is planned for the morning, with a talk about Emerald Ash Borers at 1pm with Ginger Nickerson, Forest Pest Education Coordinator, VT Urban & Community Forestry Program, University of Vermont Extension. In April we hope to collaborate again with Chandler Pond Farm on a Sugaring Open House. The Community Wide Yard Sale will again be held on the last Saturday in June. WCI also hopes to have a website up and running early in 2020.

We appreciate all our participants, especially those who shared the word with neighbors, provided home baked goodies, or helped financially – for example, at the Yard Sale. People paid \$10 to rent a table at Town Hall or Miller's Run School, or to get a dot on the map if they set up at home. Many participants even donated their sale proceeds! Last winter we submitted a grant proposal to the Vermont Community Foundation – SPARK Connecting Community fund - and were thrilled to receive an award of \$500. We are also grateful for a gift of \$500 from donors who prefer to remain anonymous. These funds have been essential for promotion costs like mailings.

We are grateful to the Town of Wheelock for providing use of Town Hall as a meeting and event space at no charge. The Town is serving as an umbrella organization enabling WCI to secure grant funds. The Town also maintains our funds in a reserve fund. The balance on hand on 12/31/2019 is \$1,147.56.

WCI is all volunteer run and we welcome new participants! Your role could be as simple as one small task around one event, to participating on the Steering Committee. For more information and to find out how you can get involved, please write to [wheelockcty@gmail.com](mailto:wheelockcty@gmail.com) or contact any member of the WCI Steering Committee.



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