

WHEELLOCK NEWS



Wheelock Community Initiative <https://wheelockcmt.org/>

Email: wheelockcmt@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://bit.ly?3weRn94>

Phone: 802-626-3109, leave message



See meeting notices and documents on the Town Hall message boards and online at

<https://townofwheelockvt.org/>

REMOTE ACCESS INFO

By Phone: +1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 810 8003 1813

Passcode: 055553

By Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3oCNpFI>

Meeting ID: 810 8003 1813

Passcode: iN9YcK

**PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING- See Note ****

Friday Dec. 23 5:30 pm
Wheelock Town Hall

**SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

- **Tuesday Jan. 3 6:00 pm**
Wheelock Town Hall
For the Zoom option, see above

BIDS DUE FOR

1. **Maintenance and Sexton** of the Village, Sulphur Springs and South Wheelock cemeteries
 2. **Maintenance** of the West Wheelock and Drown Cemeteries
- **Tuesday Jan. 3 6:00 pm**
Wheelock Town Hall
See Bid Details @ <https://townofwheelockvt.org/>

**WHEELLOCK
COMMUNITY INITIATIVE**

- **Thursday Jan. 12 3:00 pm**
In-Person at Town Hall

Selectboard News and Notes



Selectboard:

Ann Lawless, Chair
Jim Blackbird
Michael Richardson

At their December regular meeting, the Selectboard approved the architectural proposal submitted by **Greg Paus of Silver Ridge Design** (Hyde Park) to address the Town Hall's disability access issues. A lift stopping at the basement, meeting space, and stage levels is proposed. **Accessibility Systems** (Richmond) would install it. The proposed design still needs the Vermont Fire Marshall's review and approval.

* The new **Town Hall front steps** construction work is incomplete, so they are not usable yet. Creating a level area below the top of the lowest step is needed, in addition to a sloped access.

* Wheelock resident, **Steve Clark** (Red Schoolhouse Road) was appointed Minutes Clerk. He will record, transcribe and draft minutes which detail the business of Selectboard meetings.

* Wheelock Highway Supervisor, **Mark Buonanno**, was appointed to the vacant Road Commissioner position. The road commissioner plays an important, but limited role in Vermont, as the individual charged by the Selectboard to **maintain the Town's highways**. Whether appointed or elected by the voters, the position has no independent authority to act, and can only carry out the orders of the Selectboard.

* The Selectboard approved Mark's recommendation to contract with Advantage Truck Group for a Western Star manual transmission **dump truck** to include a cab and chassis at \$122,308, and a Viking body and plows at \$84,900, with a trade-in of \$21,500. All dealerships will lock in a purchase price and cancel it if voters do not approve the purchase.

* David Stahler and Eileen Boland will swap roles representing Wheelock on the **NEK Broadband Board** (eight meetings in 2023). Eileen will assume the representative role; David will be the alternate.

Town Clerk Vanessa Seguin



Office Hours: Tues. 10:30-5:30; Wed./Thurs. 8:30-2:30

Email: wheelocktown@gmail.com

Phone: 802-626-9094

P. O. Box 1328, 1192 Route 122, Wheelock VT 05851

** **Note:** A proposed **Flood Hazard Bylaw** will be presented at the Wheelock Planning Commission public hearing on Fri. Dec. 23 @5:30. For full details and the public hearing notice go to bit.ly/3UR9AVp.

GOT HISTORY?

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

Historic Markers

Ferdinand W. Chase (Ferd) was born in Wheelock on March 17, 1840; a direct descendent of Benjamin Carter and Col. John Chase, early settlers in Wheelock Hollow.

It was not uncommon during the Civil War for men who could afford it to pay a “commutation” to avoid being drafted to fight. Ferd served with the Sanitary Commission, which provided advice and assistance to the Union military on the troops’ medical care and welfare.

After the war he traveled in the southern States and held a series of different jobs before he opened a successful hotel in Loon Lake, NY. He remained interested in the history of his native town and in 1916 placed 25 historical markers throughout the town.

His gift includes the soldiers’ monument, the original kiosk over the mineral spring, and the grindstone monuments to soldiers of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

Source: “Town of Wheelock” E.J. Hutchinson, 1961



Historic marker on the Burroughs Road near the Chandler Pond Farmstead
**“Site of First Sawmill in Town
 Erected in 1785
 Isaac Stanton”**

NEK Broadband Project Urges FCC Challenges

NEK Broadband is a Communications Union District (CUD) representing every town in Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans counties, plus Wolcott in Lamoille County (50 towns).

The CUD is encouraging NEK residents to **check their addresses** on the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) [national broadband map](#) to see if their internet speed and provider availability are reported accurately.



The FCC sought information about coverage from **Internet providers**, so their map **overestimates** the percent of Vermont households with broadband—**95%**! This

inflated number puts Vermont’s access to millions in federal funding at risk according to State broadband officials. Securing this funding will bring down the cost of service and **increase broadband affordability for NEK residents.**

Based on their own data, the Vermont Department of Public Service (DPS) has sent a challenge to the FCC. DPS reported the percent of locations that lack wired or licensed wireless service as of 2021:

Speed Tier	Not Served	Percent
100 download/100 upload Mbps	219,905	71%
100/20 Mbps	74,295	24%
25/3 Mbps	61,194	20%
4/1 Mbps	11,914	4%

Unless you are using *Starlink* for your Internet access, here is your opportunity to participate in the statewide effort to **challenge and correct the FCC maps**. Simply go online from anywhere; you do not need to be at your home or business location. Just enter your address in the (FCC) <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home> where you can file a “location challenge” or an “availability challenge” for your address.

Joint Holiday Project for Food, Toys, and Books



A **BIG thank you** to Wheelock friends and neighbors for your generosity during the Wheelock holiday food and toy drive for the Sheffield Food Pantry! (The Pantry is open to Wheelock residents.)



In addition to the many cash donations, **Wheelock Community Initiative volunteers Hélène Millas and Enid Ellis** delivered six boxes of non-perishable food and four boxes of toys and books to the pantry. Happy Holidays! We will see you in the new year!