

WHEELLOCK NEWS



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

Email: wheelockcmty@gmail.com

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

Phone: 802-626-3109, leave message



See meeting notices, information, 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

ENERGY FAIR

- **SATURDAY 5/14 10 to 1**
Sutton School (See Pg. 2 for details)

WHEELLOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE COMMITTEE

- **TUESDAY 5/17 3:00 pm**
At Town Hall (no remote option)

SELECTBOARD (Special)

- **THURSDAY 5/19 6:00 pm**
Review Bids for Town Garage

WHEELLOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE YARD SALE

- **SATURDAY 5/21 10 to 2**
Outdoors At Town Hall

CLOTHES SWAP 10-5 each day

- **SAT. 5/21 and SUN. 5/22**
Sheffield Town Hall
Wheelock Residents Welcome

SELECTBOARD (Regular)

- **TUESDAY 6/7 6:00 pm**
At Wheelock Town Hall; see the details above for the Zoom option

Selectboard News and Notes



Selectboard:

Ann Lawless, Chair

Jim Blackbird

Michael Richardson

In an effort to address the town’s legal requirement to provide “program accessibility” under the federal **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**, the Selectboard is considering some short and long-term actions to tackle the town’s current ADA violations.

The Selectboard has decided at its May 3 meeting to use the majority of the town’s ARPA appropriation towards this project. (See *ARPA page 2*.)

Until a construction solution can be executed to address the lack of accessible bathrooms, an ADA/handicap compliant porta-potty will be installed outside the Town Hall near the access ramp. (See *DOJ page 2*.)

The town’s grant writing partners at Northern Counties Community Investment Corp. (NCIC) have been helping with a proposal for a VCDP Planning Grant. They are recommending replacing it with a proposal for a VCDP Access Modification grant (due mid-September) to help offset the costs of bringing the building into ADA compliance.

A significant upgrade to the town garage will start this spring with the installation of a bathroom and septic system. Monies in the garage reserve fund will support this project. Surveying services are needed for boundary surveys on the Sulphur Springs and Wheelock Town cemeteries (both town owned). Bids for both the garage and cemetery projects will be posted on the town’s website home page (scroll to the bottom of the page for the “Bids RFQs and RFPs” section).

Town Clerk Vanessa Seguin



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

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Phone: 802-626-9094

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

The Town Clerk’s office will be receiving a new vote tabulator machine for use in state and federal elections. Local elections will still be counted by hand, since using the tabulator in a local election would require a \$600 set-up fee (programming tabulators for federal and state elections is free). The Secretary of State’s office is offering trainings on their use for town officers and Board of Civil Authority members in early June.



Energy Fair

Sat. May 14; 10:00 to 1:00
Sutton School

Demonstrations and information to help you save money on heating your home and using less gas.

Weatherization; Rebates for energy saving expenses; Electric vehicles and tools; "Window Dressers"; Solar energy; Heat pumps; Composting and more!

**Coffee, muffins, and snacks
Childcare provided**

📖 GOT HISTORY? 📖

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

Five of the 10 Wheelock cemeteries are considered public or town-owned: **West Wheelock, Sulfur Springs, South Wheelock, Drown, and the Village cemetery.** The balance are on private land, and thus privately owned.

After the successful fall cleanup of the West Wheelock Cemetery, the all-volunteer **Cemetery Taskforce** will be focusing their springtime efforts on the Drown Cemetery and their **2022 Goals**:

- Definitely **identify the ownership** of all the cemeteries.
- Create **needs-assessments and budgets** for town-owned cemeteries.
- Develop a **Cemetery Policy** that outlines all the necessary procedures governing town-owned cemeteries.

The Cemetery Taskforce has volunteer opportunities for community service, scouts, and local history buffs.



The Shattuck Cemetery (private) is on Jill's Hill near the Danville border & includes members of the Noyes, Mears, Emerson, & Shattuck families. The only inscription on the newest stone is "Shattuck".

Do you know the history of this cemetery or these families?

ARPA Committee Appointed to Consider Proposals

Wheelock's American Rescue Plan Act funds (\$246,912.91) must be committed no later than 12/31/24 and expended no later than 12/31/26. The Selectboard appointed a committee to solicit community involvement, encourage/assess proposals, and recommend projects.

To date, ARPA funds have been used for some modest technology purchases (\$1648) to support the town's administrative functions. Some proposals suggested to the committee included: expanding the NEK broadband project to serve more Wheelock homes; addressing the Town Hall ADA violations and energy efficiency needs; improving Wheelock's town garage, roads, and replacing road equipment; creating recreation trails in Mathewson State Forest; and various municipal office improvements.



Criteria for assessing proposals were considered, such as requiring a **description of the public benefit and a**

detailed budget, identifying potential partners/other grant funds, and how a proposal addresses goals in either the Town Plan or the Hazard Mitigation Plan. A survey was suggested to encourage community feedback and to gauge the level of support for proposals. The Committee asked for the Selectboard's spending priorities, since the ARPA rules state "the legislative body of a municipality (the Selectboard) is the ultimate arbiter of how funds will be spent".

The Selectboard decided at its meeting on May 3 to use "the majority of the ARPA funds for the ADA building project" with any remaining funds to be used for other ideas and initiatives.

Still On DOJ's Radar: Town Hall ADA Violations

Voters at the 2022 Town Meeting approved spending for the Town Hall (\$30K added to the existing reserve fund of \$16,011) but they did not approve either design proposal for addressing the ADA violations. This outcome puts the town out of sync with its



settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), which specified contracting with construction professionals by April. **The DOJ agreement with the Town is focused on construction of accessible space, because that is what the Town said it wanted to do.**

The town's legal obligation to provide "program accessibility" is still required and continues while the town prepares for a construction project. The DOJ is concerned about this delay and the town's plans for "making the Town Hall as accessible as possible right now, while the construction is (it appears) delayed beyond what was contemplated".

The town is required to report to the DOJ by July 15 outlining any potential construction project updates; funding updates (including whether ARPA funds will be used); and the steps the Town is taking now to ensure that the program accessibility standard is being met.