

# 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, 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

**PROPERTY APPRAISAL GRIEVANCE HEARINGS**

**Begin June 17** *Details on Page 1*

**SELECTBOARD**

- **TUESDAY 7/5 6:00 pm**  
At Wheelock Town Hall; see the details above for the Zoom option

**FOOD DRIVE FINAL DAY**

- **THURSDAY 7/7 NOON**  
*Details on Page 2*

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

- **MONDAY 7/11 6:00 pm**  
At Town Hall, In person, See *Page 2*

**WHEELLOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE COMMITTEE**

- **THURSDAY 7/14 3:00 pm**  
At Town Hall, In person

**SHEFFIELD FIELD DAYS**

- **MONDAY 9/5 Labor Day**

**Selectboard News and Notes**



**Selectboard:**  
Ann Lawless, Chair  
Jim Blackbird  
Michael Richardson

In a recent communication from the U.S. Department of Justice to the Selectboard, the town’s recent efforts to provide “program accessibility” under the federal **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** were accepted as making “large strides” towards this goal (e.g., installing a porta-potty and providing access to town records on the first floor). The DOJ “is no longer expecting the Town to comply with the specific terms of the settlement agreement”; although compliance with the law is still required. Now the Selectboard “needs to consider whether to continue to follow the law by ensuring program compliance, or whether the Town decides that a fully-accessible Town Hall is the best way to comply with the law.”

**“Property Change of Appraisal” Notices**

Listers completed a major project determining the acreage for every property by following the procedure set by the Vermont Department of Taxes Division of Property Valuation and Review. Acreage was adjusted for the 2022 grand list for 450+ properties and 458 property owners received *Change of Appraisal Notices*. Listers look forward to hearing from property owners and working with them to arrive at an assessment of their properties’ fair market value. Grievance Hearings with listers will begin on June 17 starting at 8:30 am. For an appointment call 802-626-9094 or email at: [wheelocklisters@gmail.com](mailto:wheelocklisters@gmail.com)

**Town Clerk Vanessa Seguin**



**Office Hours:** Tues. 10:30-5:30; Wed./Thurs. 8:30-2:30  
**Email:** [wheelocktown@gmail.com](mailto:wheelocktown@gmail.com)  
**Phone:** 802-626-9094  
**P. O. Box 1328, 1192 Route 122, Wheelock VT 05851**

Our town is seeking volunteers to fill two vacancies on the 3-person Wheelock Planning Commission. At the 2022 Town Meeting, voters supported the Australian ballot article to join the National Flood Insurance Program (116 yes, 33 no, and 6 blank). The Planning Commission starts the process to join that program. For more information about these vacancies or the flood insurance program contact the Town Clerk’s office. Town Plan 2019: <https://bit.ly/3NOyxOo>



## Communications Union District (CUD)

The Selectboard appointed Eileen Boland as the town's alternate representative to the NEK Broadband board. She joins David Stahler, Wheelock's primary representative, and replaces alternate Steve Amos.

**Thank you for your service, Steve!**

### GOT HISTORY?

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

### Mathewson State Forest

With 788 acres spread across Wheelock, Sheffield, and Sutton (located between the Sutton-Wheelock Rd. and Town Farm Road) the Mathewson State Forest is a local recreation resource of **historical significance**. Ozias Mathewson, former headmaster of Lyndon Institute between 1934 and 1942, gifted 248 acres in exchange for the name "Mathewson" given to it.



The Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation owns the property and states it is "managed for timber resources and wildlife

habitat. Nine open fields cover 14 acres of the forest; many of these fields are associated with **historical homesteads**...(and) contain a number of well-preserved cellar holes, which were used by the Mathewsons among other families. The recreation map is at: <https://bit.ly/3Hid1z7>

The Class IV road that runs through the property is used as a snowmobile trail and is open to vehicular access in the summer. The forest is used for hunting, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking and primitive camping.

## Special Town Meeting @ Town Hall Mon. 7/11 6 PM

The agenda includes a floor vote on the subject of repurposing the Town Garage Reserve Fund to fund upgrades to the existing garage. Voters will consider whether to re-appropriate an amount not to exceed \$55,000 from the Town Garage Reserve Fund to fund repairs and upgrades to the existing town garage, and further consider moving any remaining to the Equipment Reserve Fund. View the warning [here](#).

### Wheelock's New Legislative District

*The Vermont House of Representatives and the Senate are periodically reapportioned to reflect Vermont's changing population. This reapportionment (redistricting) process is guided by Title 17, Chapter 34A of the Vermont Statutes Annotated. The Governor signed the redistricting bills on April 6, 2022.*

*The new maps are available at: <https://bit.ly/3MNEXw6>*

**T**he 2020 census confirmed what was suspected by many, the Northeast Kingdom (NEK) lost significant population since the 2010 census and northwestern Vermont had huge gains. This shift resulted in significant changes to the legislative maps. The NEK lost a Senate seat (4 to 3).

Wheelock no longer shares a House district with Orleans towns.

Our new **Caledonia 3 House (2-seat) district** includes Lyndon, Newark, Wheelock, Sheffield, and Sutton. Wheelock remains with the majority of Caledonia towns in the new **Senate district** which includes Newbury (Orange), but excludes Lyndon and Kirby (into Essex) and Sheffield, Sutton, Burke, and Newark (into Orleans). These changes will affect the 2022 election. Candidates to date, confirmed by the Secretary of State, include Jane Kitchel (D) for the Senate, and for the House, Charlie Wilson (R), Dennis LaBounty (D), and Eileen Boland (D).

**Primary:** Tues., Aug. 9; early voting starts Mon. June 27.

**Election Day:** Tues., Nov. 8, early voting Mon. Sept. 24

### Wheelock Community Initiative News and Notes

**W**heelock Community Initiative (WCI) volunteers held a successful yard sale at the Town Hall on May 21 raising almost \$200 for future activities, such as welcome basket gifts for new members of the Wheelock community.



A summer food drive is next! Food prices are up and school meals will be ending this week, so the WCI is organizing a drive for donations (food or checks) to support the **Sheffield Food Pantry** which is open to Wheelock residents. Donations of non-perishable food and children's books can be dropped off at Wheelock Town Hall during office hours on June 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30. **Last drop off day is Thurs. July 7.**

**Checks:** Sheffield Food Pantry, P.O. Box 36, Sheffield, VT 05866

Need more info? Contact [wheelockcmty@gmail.com](mailto:wheelockcmty@gmail.com) or 802-626-3109.