

WHEELOCK 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 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

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY

- **WEDNESDAY 7/20 3:00 PM**
See Page 2

SELECTBOARD

- **TUESDAY 8/2 6:00 pm**
Wheelock Town Hall; see the details above for the Zoom option

PRIMARY ELECTION

- **TUESDAY 8/9 10AM-7PM**
See Page 2

WHEELOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE COMMITTEE

- **THURSDAY 8/11 3:00 pm**
At Town Hall, In person

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE NOMINATIONS DUE

- **FRIDAY 8/12 5:00 PM**

SHEFFIELD FIELD DAYS

- **MONDAY 9/5 Labor Day**

Selectboard News and Notes



Selectboard:

Ann Lawless, Chair
Jim Blackbird
Michael Richardson

The Selectboard held a special town meeting on July 11 to consider two articles. One to re-appropriate \$55,000 from the Town Garage Reserve Fund (currently about \$75,000) to fund repairs to the facility, and the second to re-appropriate the remaining funds to the town's Equipment Reserve Fund. About 25 people were in attendance on a mild summer evening to discuss the articles. By voice vote they supported the first article, but not the second. Repairs to the town garage are currently underway. They include installing a bathroom (replacing a porta potty), septic system, side door, siding, and insulation. Some materials from the renovations will be reused in the construction of a new pole building to house the loader at the town's gravel pile.

Town Hall Accessibility Update

The U.S. Department of Justice is pleased with the town's efforts for program accessibility and lifted the town's Settlement Agreement requirements, although the town still needs to meet the ADA accessibility requirements. The Selectboard is applying for an accessibility modification grant (up to \$100,000) to address this need. The Preservation Trust of Vermont will recommend experts familiar with ADA compliance who can create construction documents that also maintain the building's historical integrity. Voters at the 2022 Town Meeting approved a \$16,500 appropriation for these services, which will be put out to bid. The grant application (due in February) would push out the start of construction to next summer/fall. Modifications to the building, however, will most likely cost more than \$100,000.

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

The Wheelock Selectboard will set the tax rate at their regular Selectboard meeting on 8/2/22. Tax bills are expected to be mailed to property owners during the last week in August.

GOT HISTORY?

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

Painted Theater Curtains

The Wheelock Town Hall has two decorative theater curtains painted in 1940 by artist **Robert Naves**. One curtain features ads for local businesses arranged in a street scene, the other a depiction of Willoughby Lake. Naves' studio was in Hampton, N.H., but he painted curtains for a number of Vermont communities. The ads cost between \$5 - \$25, for a total revenue between \$150 - \$200 a curtain. He painted country scenes and grand drapes, including one of Shadow Lake in Concord; Parker Pond in Glover; and the floating bridge in Brookfield.



Curtain with Ads and a Blimp!

A conservation team led by Christine Hadsel from the **Vermont Painted Theater Curtain Conservation Project**, along with local volunteers, gave the curtains new life by stabilizing the fabric, paint, and support systems. Grants paid for 3/4 of the project cost with the town's financial contribution.



Ad Curtain at Town Meeting 2013

Contact the Wheelock Community Initiative wheelockcmtty@gmail.com if you are interested in helping move the curtains from storage to display again.

Wheelock's New Vote Tabulator

Vermont Town Clerks have been attending trainings offered by the Secretary of State's Elections Division on the use and security protocols for the new "ImageCast Precinct" tabulators (electronic vote counting machines). Votes in local and general elections have always been counted by hand in Wheelock, sometimes into the early morning hours in large-turnout presidential general election years.

The Board of Civil Authority (the Selectboard, Town Clerk, and Justices of the Peace) will meet on July 20 to formally adopt using the tabulators in general (statewide) elections only. The BCA's agenda also includes authorizing the Town Clerk to appoint election officials (they check voters in and out) for the 8/9 Primary and 11/8 General Election.

Major parties must hold their caucuses to nominate their candidates for **Justice of the Peace** before the primary and report their nominations to the Town Clerk by **5 PM, Friday August 12**. Independent candidates must file a consent form with the Town Clerk by the same deadline.

Make sure you're ready for the August 9 Primary Election!

Who needs to request a mail ballot?

For the August 9 Primary Election - If you want to vote by mail, you must request a ballot.

For the November 8 General Election - All voters will automatically receive a ballot at the mailing address on their voter registration. If you will be out of town, you must request a ballot to your out of town address.

Return all 3 Primary ballots

When you vote by mail in the Primary Election, you will receive 3 ballots, 1 for each major party. You will only vote 1 ballot. Then, you must return all 3 ballots for your vote to count.

Want to vote in person instead?

Go to your polling location on Election Day—Tuesday, August 9.

Requesting a ballot is easy

You have options:



Online:

<https://mvp.vermont.gov/>



Paper form:

tinyurl.com/vtballotrequest



In-person, by email, or by phone from your Town Clerk.

tinyurl.com/vtclerks

Wheelock Community Initiative News and Notes

The Wheelock Community Initiative (WCI) volunteers are impressed with the generosity of our community! The **Summer Food Drive** for food, children's books, and cash donations to the **Sheffield Food Pantry** was a huge success. Boxes of food and \$1875 was raised. The food pantry is open to residents of Wheelock, Newark, and Sheffield. The free "tiny library" hutch for children and adults is located on the Sheffield Town Hall porch.



Sara Camber, food pantry manager, shared that a large purchase of staples from the Vermont Foodbank is going forward. She is also planning a new children's "**food, books, and backpacks**" program.