

WHEELOCK 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

SELECTBOARD MEETINGS FOR THE 2023 BUDGET

- **Thursday 12/1 6:00 pm**
- **Tuesday 12/6 5:00 pm**
- **Monday 12/12 6:00 pm**

And the REGULAR MEETING

- **Tuesday 12/6 6:00 pm**

Wheelock Town Hall
For the Zoom option, see above

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Non-perishable food

New toys and children's books

DROP OFF @ TOWN HALL

During the Town Clerk Office Hours

- **Tues.-Thurs. 11/29 - 12/1**
- **Tues.-Thurs. 12/6 - 12/8**

Drop-off ends Noon Thur. Dec. 8

See story Page 2.

WHEELOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

- **Thursday 12/8 3:00 pm**
In-Person at Town Hall
All Are Welcome!

Selectboard News and Notes



At their November regular meeting, the Selectboard discussed the **Town Hall front steps** project. It required a permit (none was requested by either the Town or the contractor). Construction issues prevent their use at this time and need the Fire Marshall's review.

Selectboard:

Ann Lawless, Chair
Jim Blackbird
Michael Richardson

At a special Nov. 10 meeting, the Selectboard voted to hire Greg Paus of Silver Ridge Design for architectural plans to improve the Town Hall's accessibility. Ryan Edwards was engaged earlier, but he is not available until February.

Scott Lange, who lives on Vertical Mile Road, was appointed to the **Wheelock Planning Commission**, joining Enid Ellis and Paul Tomasi. Thank you, Scott! (A minimum of 3 members is required.) At Town Meeting 2022 voters approved a measure to bring a set of **lood regulations** to a town vote by fall 2022. Before scheduling a vote, the Planning Commission will review the draft regulations and hold a public meeting. The Selectboard will also hold its own public meeting.

2022 General Election: *Justices of the Peace*—Steve Amos, Eileen Boland, Kim Crady-Smith, and Carol Rossi. *Caledonia 3 Reps:* Dennis LaBounty and Charles Wilson. *Senate:* Jane Kitchel.

Update: Wheelock Fire District #1

The Wheelock Fire District has provided water for 20 village locations including Town Hall since 1991. State guidelines require a "Prudential Committee" of three to govern its operations, and the town's Selectboard may fill vacancies. It appears that the district has been operating without one since 2013. The Selectboard appointed three interim district members to serve: Bradley Brewer, Nate Davis, Nikki St. Jean. Their interim terms will expire at the next duly warned and convened Annual or Special Meeting of the district when Prudential Committee members and officers will be elected.

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

OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON ON WED. 11/23



📖 GOT HISTORY? 📖

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

The Community Club



Before forming the Wheelock Community Initiative in 2018, the town enjoyed many seasonal gatherings, celebrations, and town upgrades organized by the Community Club (mid-1970s-early 1990).

The club consisted of a large group of **volunteers**, a veritable who's who from all corners of town (mostly women, too many to list here!) They involved other residents by personally contacting families in each region of town.

Carolyn Nolan, club president for many years, provided steady leadership. She is a member of the Wheelock Community Initiative and recently shared some of her club notes. They tell a story of a vibrant Wheelock with year-round activities: meals on Town Meeting and Election Day; a Christmas party with Santa, carol singing, and gifts for pre-school children; a summer Field Day with games, pony pull, Bingo, chicken BBQ, floral hall, and prizes. Many events raised funds for town causes.

The Wheelock Community Initiative's goal is to build on this legacy and welcomes volunteers. Visit the website <https://wheelockcmty.org/> or email wheelockcmty@gmail.com for more information.

Update: NEK Broadband Project

NEK Broadband is a Communications Union District (CUD) representing every town in Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans counties, plus Wolcott in Lamoille County (50 towns). It is a community-driven organization with representatives from each town. Wheelock's board members are David Stahler and Eileen Boland. The goal is to ensure **every address with existing utility poles will have access to high-speed broadband service.**



As a municipality, the CUD is a **non-profit**, so revenue from grants and customers goes toward building and repairing infrastructure and **increasing affordability for residents.**

NEK Broadband is currently building the **"backbone"** of the network to ensure reliability of services for the entire district.

Within two years, portions of 90% of the member towns will have access to new high-speed Internet. **There are no set-up fees for standard installations and no data caps.**

By any measure, this is an extraordinary project that will transform the under-served communities of the Northeast Kingdom. This year 32 miles were built in three towns serving 432 addresses. Projected for 2023: 270 miles will be built with 26 towns and 2700 addresses served. By 2024, 520 miles, 46 towns, and 6193 addresses will be served.

Complicating Wheelock's implementation are the four electric utilities serving the town: Green Mt. Power, Vermont Electric Coop, Lyndon Electric, and Washington Electric Coop. Their utilities poles are in different states of readiness to accept fiber optic cable. Efforts are being made to ensure poles are located near roads rather than in the woods.

Here's an easy step you can take to get the latest information for your address. **Register at** <https://get.nekbroadband.org/>. Once registered you will receive email notification when service will be available soon.

Information about **well-paying career opportunities** with the project is available at the website: <https://nekbroadband.org/careers/>

Joint Holiday Project for Food, Toys, and Books



The Sheffield Food Pantry

The Wheelock Community Initiative is teaming up with the **Sheffield Food Pantry** to help Wheelock and Sheffield families with holiday meal boxes and children's gifts. Wheelock

residents can donate non-perishable food, new toys and books, or financial help. Bring donations to Wheelock Town Hall during office hours. (Donation dates/deadline on page 1.) Mail financial donations to Sheffield Food Pantry, P.O. Box 36, Sheffield, VT 05866.

