

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

SELECTBOARD PUBLIC HEARING

(In-Person and Zoom)

Proposed Flood Hazard Bylaw

- Monday Jan. 23 6:00 pm

Wheelock Town Hall

Followed by a special

Selectboard Meeting (See Pg. 2)

SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING

- Tuesday Feb. 7 6:00 pm

Wheelock Town Hall

For the Zoom option, see above

WHEELLOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

- Thursday Feb. 16 3:00 pm

In-Person at Town Hall

All Are Welcome

INFORMATION MEETING

For Australian Ballot Items at Town Meeting

- Wednesday March 1 Time TBA

Selectboard News and Notes

At their first meeting of the new year, the Selectboard considered an update about Silver Ridge Design's architectural proposal and their questions to the fire marshal to address the Town Hall's disability access issues.

The proposal includes two new ADA toilet rooms, removing a stair to the meeting room, and slightly relocating the stair to the town clerk's office.

A 4-stop **vertical lift** is quoted at \$37,648, with an entire project of \$100,000 +/- . The fire marshal requested information about an **elevator** (much more costly). The selectboard has requested an on-site meeting with the fire marshal to review details. A true cost estimate cannot be developed until the fire marshal's requirements are known and the proposal gains his approval. A site visit with the fire marshal will be arranged and warned as a special Selectboard Meeting.

- Open seats for Wheelock town government that will be considered at the **2023 Town Meeting, Tuesday March 7 are: Town Clerk, Treasurer, Selectboard, Lister, and Auditor—all 3 year terms. Delinquent Tax Collector, 1st and 2nd Constable—1 year terms.**

Wheelock took possession of its new **John Deere 524 Loader** on Jan. 5. The majority of the funding came from the Road Equipment Reserve Fund with the Town financing the \$40,000 balance. L-R.: Jim Blackbird; Highway Supervisor/Road Commissioner, Mark Buonanno; and Road Crew, Dean Davis.



Special Gift to Miller's Run

Elizabeth Duranleau, a St. Johnsbury Academy senior, presented the bench she built (her Capstone project) to Principal Patrick Ham. Elizabeth created the bench in gratitude for her experience as a student at the Miller's Run School. (Cal.Rec. 1/3/23)



Town Clerk Vanessa Seguin

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

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



📖 GOT HISTORY? 📖

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

The Cree Connection Pt. 1

Without a doubt, Thomas Jefferson Cree was one of Wheelock's most civic minded citizens. Born in 1806 he died in Wheelock on November 9, 1880. He was a carpenter and joiner by trade, so when he married Ann Stone of Cabot in 1834, he brought his bride to the grand home he built in Wheelock Village.



Cree Home, Wheelock Village

Cree's dedication to the town and Vermont included serving as town moderator from 1858-1869 and 1872-1877, and town treasurer 1859-1866.

He represented the town in 1848/49, was assistant judge from 1848-1851, a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1837, and a Caledonia County senator 1862/63.

His terms as town lister in 1858, 1865, and 1874, and town agent 1859-1863 and 1865-1872 are especially noteworthy. The Vermont Legislature passed an act in November 1857, freeing Wheelock's citizens from their financial obligations to Dartmouth College. Together with listers Charles Rogers and George Griffin, Jr., they set the first post-1857 real estate grand list for local taxes.

Part 2 in February's *Wheelock News*

Sources: "Town of Wheelock" E.J. Hutchinson, 1961 and "Images of America, Caledonia County" Dolores E. Ham, 2000

Resources for Rural Communities

In his fourth inaugural address on Jan. 5, Governor Scott emphasized the differences among Vermont communities, particularly between urban and **rural areas**. "What towns like Canaan or Dover or Montgomery need from us are more tools, and the flexibility to be more vibrant and dynamic...they all have different assets and attributes – and sometimes not enough of either...This session, if we pay more attention to the individual needs of each community, we can close the gap between regions to give all our towns and villages a brighter future."

As Rep. Katherine Sims (Orleans 4) has noted, many state programs already benefit residents in rural community. "**Lots of folks assume these programs aren't for them, but eligibility varies and many more people are eligible than are taking advantage of them**".

[Rebates for energy efficiency/electrification projects](http://bit.ly/3X9GCBA)
bit.ly/3X9GCBA

[Free weatherization services](http://www.vtneto.org/) http://www.vtneto.org/

[Help with heating](https://buttonupvermont.org/) https://buttonupvermont.org/

[Funding to repair vacant rental units or add an accessory dwelling unit](http://bit.ly/3GoX9e7) bit.ly/3GoX9e7

[Emergency rental assistance.](http://bit.ly/3WTnsjD) bit.ly/3WTnsjD

[Child care financial assistance.](http://bit.ly/3WYT5bQ) bit.ly/3WYT5bQ

[Subsidy for groceries.](http://bit.ly/3k57S5S) bit.ly/3k57S5S

[Subsidy for internet service.](http://bit.ly/3Zd3eD4) bit.ly/3Zd3eD4

[Help with utility bills.](http://bit.ly/3ZILeGH) bit.ly/3ZILeGH

[First Generation Homebuyer Grant](http://bit.ly/3IAjBE4) bit.ly/3IAjBE4

[Funding for projects that spur economic recovery](http://bit.ly/3Gp6K4I) housing & childcare projects; agriculture, arts, recreation, food businesses
bit.ly/3Gp6K4I

[Funding for agricultural and forestry businesses](http://bit.ly/3io6NGO) bit.ly/3io6NGO

[Health insurance plans and subsidies](http://bit.ly/3CyIPQo) bit.ly/3CyIPQo

Public Hearing on Flood Bylaws Before Town Vote

Two public hearings are required before voting on the Flood Bylaws by Australian ballot at Town Meeting. Wheelock's Planning Commission drafted the bylaws and held the first public hearing on December 23, 2022. The Selectboard is required by statute to hold its own bylaws hearing prior to voting. The hearing is on **Monday January 23, 2023 at 6:00pm, Town Hall.**

Adopting the bylaws will create several advantages for the town, including the ability to apply for FEMA hazard mitigation grants and receive more relief money in the event of a federally declared disaster.

Property owners with a federally backed loan or mortgage are required to have flood insurance. Adopting the bylaws will make them eligible for federal flood insurance.