

# WHEELLOCK NEWS



Wheelock Community Initiative <https://wheelockcmty.org/>  
Facebook: <https://bit.ly?3weRn94>

Email: [wheelockcmty@gmail.com](mailto:wheelockcmty@gmail.com)  
Phone: 802-626-3109, leave message



Meeting notices and documents on Town Hall message boards and online: <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

- **First & Third Tuesdays @ 6:00 pm**  
**Nov. 7, Nov. 21**

Wheelock Town Hall

For the Zoom option, see above

### WHEELLOCK

### COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

- **Wednesday Nov. 8 2:00 pm**  
Committee Meets In-Person  
**Town Hall All Are Welcome!**



Dean Davis,  
for your  
service on  
Wheelock's  
Roads!

Bradley and  
Tanya Brewer for  
donating the  
materials and  
volunteering your  
time constructing  
and installing the  
Tiny Library \*\*  
at Town Hall!



### Selectboard News and Notes

There has been a long tail to the summer storms tiger for Wheelock!

In the absence of a full-time road crew, and with several equipment failures, the Selectboard and **Glen Cole, the newly appointed road commissioner**, are directing a small group of short-term, part-time road staff to continue repairing the storm's road damage. To mitigate future flooding in the Town Hall basement and municipal office, the Selectboard is seeking bids to replace the sump pump and to repair the drainage discharge line.

Selectboard members are working together to gather documentation including invoices, before and after photos, payroll costs and GPS coordinates required for the town's reimbursement request to FEMA.

Recruitment and selection for an **interim town clerk/treasurer is complete with Carol Rossi** appointed to cover these critical roles. **Valerie Desmarais is the new Selectboard minutes clerk.**

Interviews for highway worker candidates were held at two recent Selectboard meetings; appointments to the positions are expected soon.

With the assistance of **Wheelock's Cemetery Taskforce**, the Selectboard adopted a new **Cemetery Policy** outlining the rules of operation, lots sales, burials, monuments, and other helpful information. The policy is listed on the town's website under the "Town Docs" tab.

### Wheelock Fire District #1

The Wheelock Fire District #1, supplies water to most of the village, including the Town Hall. It is a **self-governing municipality** separate from town governance. Bradley Brewer, current president of the district, will be moving from the village, which creates a vacancy. At the Selectboard's 10/17 meeting, the district is requesting the town assume the role of bookkeeper/treasurer for the district.

### Town Clerk Carol Rossi

**Office Hours:** Tues. 10:30-5:30; Wed./Thurs. 8:30-2:30  
**Closed** Thurs. 10/26, **Open** Fri. 10/27; **Nov. 1 close @noon**  
**Special Tax Collection Hours** Fri. Nov 3. 8:30-5:00

**Email:** [wheelocktown@gmail.com](mailto:wheelocktown@gmail.com) **Phone** 802-626-9094  
**P. O. Box 1328, 1192 Route 122, Wheelock VT 05851**

\*\* The WCI **Tiny Library** project, located at Town Hall and So. Wheelock fire station, offers **free** books, magazines, games and puzzles. **Donations are welcome.** It is sad to note that the bell on the new Tiny Library at Town Hall was stolen.



**Selectboard:**  
Ann Lawless, Chair  
Jim Blackbird  
Andy Buteau

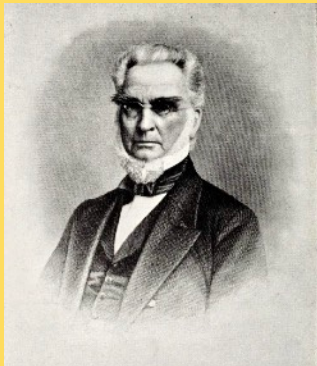


**GOT HISTORY?**

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

**Village Storekeepers:  
The Fairbanks Connection**

**E**rastus Fairbanks, who was born in Brimfield, Mass. Oct. 28, 1792, began his first independent business in Wheelock. He moved on to a partnership with his brothers, Joseph and Thaddeus Fairbanks, to form the **Fairbanks Scale Works**; but his early Wheelock experience was important.



In the spring of 1814, he formed a business partnership with Frederick Phelps of St. Johnsbury, with whom he had been a clerk. The plan was to open a store in Wheelock.

This “wilderness settlement” was on the direct stage and mail route between Boston and Montreal, while St. Johnsbury was not so strategically placed. Phelps furnished the capital (\$800); Fairbanks successfully transacted the business so he quickly paid back Phelps’ investment in full.

This first store was a log cabin in Wheelock Hollow where the Danville road leaves the village and opposite the site of the William Smith house. In 1814 he leased a house “standing opposite John Chase’s”. It is probable that it was converted into a store and forms a part of the present building.

**Background “Town of Wheelock”  
E.J. Hutchinson, 1961**

**Community Feedback on Walk Audit Findings**

**W**ith the assistance of an AARP grant, WCI volunteers hosted a community discussion and meal as part of their presentation of the “**walk audit**” findings for Rte 122 through the village. (See the full presentation at the WCI website: [bit.ly/3PfsHYI](http://bit.ly/3PfsHYI)) Attendees identified **three main strategies** to “calm traffic”, making it “uncomfortable” to drive faster than the speed limit, and to create a roadway safe for pedestrians of all abilities:



- Erecting additional and more noticeable speed limit **signs**
- Installing **crosswalks**
- Enforcing and/or reducing the current **speed limits**

On 10/17, Sheriff Hemond will be reporting to the Selectboard on the results of his officers recent speed enforcement and ticketing contract.

WCI volunteers will send a **survey to solicit more ideas and support from Wheelock residents, particularly those residing in the village.** The survey will help inform future WCI requests to the Selectboard for a (free) Vermont Traffic Control Board study, followed by a “scoping study” by VTrans engineers. All these components will be needed to create a comprehensive plan for a safer, walkable village.

**Wheelock Community Initiative Food Drive**

**T**he Sheffield Food Pantry serves the **Sheffield, Wheelock, Sutton, and Newark communities.** The Wheelock Community

Initiative partners with the Pantry by collecting non-perishable food donations for Thanksgiving meal boxes for needy families. The Wheelock Town Hall basement is the food collection site, open for donations on:



Tues. 10/24 10:30-5:30 Wed. 10/25 8:30-2:30 Fri. 10/27 8:30-2:30  
Tues. 10/31 10:30-5:30 Wed. 11/1 until noon.

Financial donations are welcome too and each dollar goes far! Mail your check to: Sheffield Food Pantry, P.O. Box 36, Sheffield, VT 05866.

**If you are seeking a meal box** contact Sara Camber, Pantry Manager, at 802-397-2263 or [saracamber68@gmail.com](mailto:saracamber68@gmail.com)

**Other Local Community Events**

**CLOTHING SWAP!**  
Sheffield Town Hall  
**Donation Drop** 11 am to 1 pm  
Fri. Oct. 21 & Sat. Oct. 22  
**Swap Date** Sat. Oct. 28  
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

**WINDOW DRESSERS  
Volunteers Needed!**  
**Build Dates:** Nov 9 – Nov 16  
Lyndon Municipal Building  
**Contact:** Pam Parker –  
[plparkervt@gmail.com](mailto:plparkervt@gmail.com)  
**Sign up to volunteer:**  
[click link to volunteer](#)