



WHEELLOCK NEWS

Wheelock Community Initiative <https://wheelockcmty.org/>

Email: wheelockcmty@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://bit.ly?3weRn94>

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**
Dec. 19; Jan. 2 & 16 @ 6:00 pm
(Budget meeting 12/15 9:00 AM)

Wheelock Town Hall

For the Zoom option, see above

*Andy Buteau withdrew his resignation.

WHEELLOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

- **Wednesday Jan. 10 2:00 pm**
Committee Meets In-Person
@Town Hall All Are Welcome!



To Glenn Cole

(Volunteer) Road Commissioner

Glenn is supporting the road crew, fielding complaints, and providing reports to the Selectboard. He is very familiar with Wheelock's roads from his experience as a town employee.

Glenn communicates well with residents; some serve as "lookouts" providing updates on current conditions to the road crew.

Selectboard News and Notes

The outlook is mixed for Wheelock securing full FEMA reimbursements (Federal Emergency Management Agency) to repair road damage from the July floods. The town spent about \$57,000 on Class 4 roads, included in a total of about \$100,000 spent on all road damage. In total, 15 "Category C" projects will receive partial funding, which FEMA will obligate in the next couple of months. No work on Class 4 roads, however, will be supported. Repairs that made changes on the Kennison and Welch roads that were not approved will only receive partial reimbursement.



Selectboard:

- Ann Lawless, Chair
- Jim Blackbird
- Andy Buteau

Give a wave to our new road crew, Luke Stevens and Sean Dernago!

The early winter heavy storms have also presented challenges with downed trees blocking roads and taking out power lines. The road crew is out early, however, and all their equipment has been readied for winter conditions. (Chuck Hill has been contracted to provide plowing services in West Wheelock.)



Holiday Food and Toy Drive Success!

The Wheelock Community Initiative again teamed up with the **Sheffield Food Pantry** for a hugely successful holiday food and toy drive. Donations were delivered to the Pantry on 12/7. **Thank you!**



Town Clerk/Treasurer Carol Rossi

Office Hours: Tues. 10:30-5:30; Wed./Thurs. 8:30-2:30
Happy Holidays! And best wishes for the New Year!

Email: wheelocktown@gmail.com Phone 802-626-9094
P. O. Box 1328, 1192 Route 122, Wheelock VT 05851



GOT HISTORY?

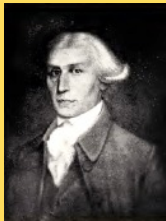
There's no time like the present to learn more about Wheelock's past.

New Year's Celebrations

As noted in prior history columns, from the late 1700s into the mid-1800s, the rentals paid by Wheelock tenants provided a large percentage of Dartmouth College's funding.

The first day of each new year marked the arrival of the college's agent to collect residents' rents (farmers/trades people) who paid in cash, goods, and in-kind services.

"President John Wheelock sometimes came for the weighing of the grain, in which the rents were paid. After the storehouse was built near the meeting house in 1807, the rents were collected there." But soon thereafter, the annual rents were collected at "Capt. Weeks in the Hollow".



John Wheelock, 1754-1817 Dartmouth College's second president, son of Eleazor Wheelock

No doubt this was a welcome change of venue, creating a more festive atmosphere for the event

because "spirits" were served compliments of the rent agent. (Capt. Weeks' relative, Samuel Weeks ran a potato whiskey distillery in the Hollow.)

After the rents were paid, holiday activities of "wrestling and other sports, such as lifting stiff heels*, pulling sticks, jumping, pitching quoits**, and old fashioned round ball*** were the order of the day."

From E.J. Hutchinson's "Town of Wheelock: Vermont's Gift to Dartmouth College", 1961

* **Lifting stiff heels:** Lifting a barbell loaded with weight plates from the ground to overhead, with the aim of successfully lifting the heaviest weights.

** **Quoits:** Involves the throwing of metal, rope or rubber rings over a set distance, usually to land over or near a spike; similar to horse shoes.

*****Round ball:** An early form of basketball.

Village Walkability Survey Results & Next Steps

With the assistance of an AARP grant, WCI volunteers completed a "village walk audit". Results were shared with residents in a community meeting in late August (<https://bit.ly/3PfsHYI>) and residents gave more feedback with a short (four questions) survey in late November. Survey results help inform the next steps to address the issues identified in the audit.



Q1. Residents said the village needs more and better road signs. What type of signs do you think will be most helpful?

- 86% Signs that show drivers their speed
- 61% Signs are visible and are placed well in advance of the village in both directions
- 44% Caution signs near the transfer station and the Peak and Sulphur Spring Roads
- 36% Signs showing children and people with mobility concerns live in the village
- 33% Place reduce speed signs (50 mph to 35 mph) farther out from the village
- 30% A flashing sign when the school bus is picking up/dropping off students

Q2. Vehicles speeding through the village was a big concern confirmed by audit speed data. The community meeting attendees offered ideas on how to address it. Which ideas do you agree with?

- 55% Contract with the Caledonia County Sheriff to enforce the speed limit
- 53% Lower the village speed limit to 25 mph
- 50% Add a "rumble strip" (small depressions) on the road's center line
- 36% Create a 3-6 ft wide shoulder or break down lane through the village
- 22% Narrow the roadway to "calm traffic" and create slower driving
- 14% Install a mid-road, center island (as in Danville Village)

Q3. Installing crosswalks was suggested to help make it safer to walk in the village and to cross the road. Which ideas do you agree with?

- 48% Two crosswalk locations: near the store & from Town Hall to the cemetery
- 32% Wherever crosswalks are installed, they are marked w/ bright lights
- 19% Identify where/how other NEK villages are using crosswalks

Q4. Community meeting participants identified another safety concern -- the Sutton Road/Rte 122 intersection by Town Hall.

Do you think this intersection poses safety risks for walkers/drivers?

68% Yes 16% No 16% Unsure

WCI also welcomed emails about the audit (you can still share your ideas by writing to wheelockcmty@gmail.com) and received comments such as:

The walkability audit was quite interesting. A lot of things I did not know. It would be great to slow the speed down in Wheelock, as well as have crosswalks with lights, more signs etc., and possibly a bike path. I'd ride my bike to the store, but the one time I did, it seemed way too dangerous.

WCI will be reporting the audit data and suggestions to the Selectboard and complete the grant requirements with a final report to AARP.

Successful Special Blood Donation Drive



During her childbirth emergency a year ago, Dalhia Dill of Chandler Pond Farm "lost all of her blood in the operating room and survived because of the availability of 11+ units that people had selflessly donated in order to 'save a life', which they did." In gratitude, Dill recently partnered with the Red Cross to sponsor

a blood drive in St. Johnsbury. **Sixty four people from the greater NEK community registered**, roughly double a normal drive, so many in fact, the Red Cross staff had to turn some donors away. Dill hopes to sponsor a local blood drive as an annual event. **Other blood drives can be searched by zip code at redcrossblood.org - donors are always needed!**