

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/3oCNpFl>

Meeting ID: 810 8003 1813

Passcode: iN9YcK

ADA Accessibility Modifications For Wheelock Town Hall

PUBLIC HEARING

VCDP Access Modification Grant

And PUBLIC MEETING

USDA Community Facilities Grant

- **Wednesday April 12 6:00 pm**

Details in "Selectboard News & Notes"

Remember to file your HOMESTEAD DECLARATION

See Vt. Department of Taxes

bit.ly/428tnEx **Due by 4/18/23**

WHEELLOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

- **Thursday April 13 3:00 pm**
 - **Thursday May 11 3:00 pm**
- Committee Meets In-Person
Town Hall All Are Welcome!

SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETINGS

- **Tuesday April 18 6:00 pm**
- **Tuesday May 16 6:00 pm**

Wheelock Town Hall

For the Zoom option, see above

Selectboard News and Notes



The Selectboard held a well-attended special meeting on March 28 to review the proposal of Paul Trudell, architect from Silver Ridge Design (Hyde Park), to address the **ADA accessibility issues of the Town Hall.**

Mr. Trudell presented a multi-page plan which includes **a lift with a new entrance on the side of the building**, repositions a stairwell to the basement, adds two ADA bathrooms (basement), replaces the stage stairs with a ramp, adds handicap parking on both sides of the building, and other smaller modifications. Problems with the outside ramp could be addressed by adding a concrete pad and extending the roofline, but those options are not included in the plan.

A significant portion of the proposal includes excavating the building's back and west side to examine current conditions, and then plan a solution for the foundation crack and frequent water leaks in basement.

There was considerable discussion about how a new lift and ramp to the stage will reduce the floor space of the assembly area. Attendees who are experienced with setting up chairs, the voting areas, and the selectboard table for Town Meeting stated that a 167-person occupancy rate (allowed under the building code) was hard to imagine.

The estimated total for the proposed work is \$186,390, which includes a 20% contingency. The plan is to fund the project with a combination of the town's ARPA grant and other grant proposals—an Access Modification Grant (\$100,000) and a USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant. Both grant proposals will be discussed in detail at the upcoming public hearing and public meeting (see sidebar).

Selectboard:
Ann Lawless, Chair
Jim Blackbird
Andy Buteau

SELECTBOARD APPOINTMENTS

- **Animal Control Officer** – Cindy Cady
 - **Fire Warden** – Charles Rice (State appointed, expires in 2024)
 - **Grand Juror; Town Agent to Prosecute & Defend** – Selectboard
 - **Lyndon Rescue Rep and 911 Coordinator** – Shane Lanphere
 - **NEKWMD Rep** – Preston Jack Smith
 - **Town Agent to Convey Real Estate** – Town Clerk
 - **Emergency Management** – Marc Brown
 - **NVDA Reps** – Steve Amos, Eileen Boland
 - **NEK Broadband Board** – Eileen Boland, David Stahler Jr. (alternate)
- Planning Commission** – 1- 5 vacancies remain. "Fence Viewer" and "Inspector of Coal and Lumber" positions have been eliminated.

GOT HISTORY?

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

Wheelock's Mineral Springs

The Wheelock mineral springs were pretty much a local attraction until the late 1860's when health resorts were popular and cropping up all over Vermont.

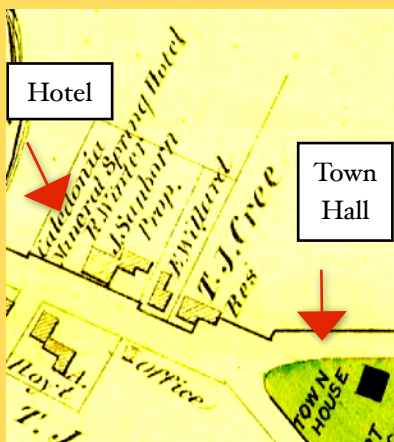
Royal Winter teamed up with a Boston company to buy and spruce up the old Brick Hotel in the village (see map below) renaming it the "Caledonia Mineral Springs Hotel" for guests to partake of the "curing" waters.

Mr. Winter created a 14-page brochure touting the healing properties of the waters, with testimonials by notable Wheelock residents and patients from Boston. The enterprise caught on and soon generated a short-lived boom for Wheelock village and Mr. Winter.

He started a side business bottling and selling the waters, which was a costly failure. Cases of the empty bottles embossed with "Caledonia Spring Wheelock" sat outdoors for years.

H. M. Nichols of Lyndon Center, bought the whole lot, then resold them to other local Vermont businesses. The bottles proved to be of very poor quality and lawsuits soon followed, although they are collectors' items today.

Background "Town of Wheelock" E.J. Hutchinson



NEK Broadband Project Update



Wheelock was one of the towns included in the NEK Broadband's (NEKBB) first construction grants. The project is securing an easement for an equipment cabinet in Lyndon before completing the designs to bring service to parts of Wheelock in 2023. The plan is to build 9.26 miles servicing 119 premises, in late summer into fall, with service coming out of the Lyndon cabinet.

The new service will be fast, reliable, and accessible for every e-911 address in the 45 NEKBB member towns on the electric grid or with utility poles. By the end of 2024, portions of all the towns will have access to the service with the goal of universal service by 2029.



ARPA grant funds from Vermont Community Broadband (VCBB) is focused on building the "backbone" for this section, plus the conditional ARPA grant from the Town of Wheelock will support the plan (with a 3:1 match from the VCBB and NEKBB).

You can register to receive regular updates about the project and when service will be available in your area by either using this Q-Code, or logging onto get.nekbroadband.org

Chicken Pot Pie Fundraiser: A Tasty Success



A team of WCI volunteers came together for this time-intensive, March fundraising project. Three days of preparation were spread over busy kitchens in two towns! Tanya and Bradley Brewer opened their kitchen and Sheffield's

Town Hall/Food Pantry generously loaned their well-equipped facility. Tanya led the project with elbow grease provided by Bradley, Linda Rhodes, Enid Ellis, Helene Millas, Carolyn Nolan, and Eileen Boland. 76 pies were created and sold out fast to lots of positive reviews. Proceeds will help support WCI's current projects and allow new ones to promote our community and other improvements for Wheelock.

Selectboard Changes Their Meeting Schedule

During the months of October – April
The first and third Tuesday of every month

During the months of May – September
The third Tuesday of every month



Town Clerk Vanessa Seguin



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

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Phone: 802-626-9094

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