

WHEELOCK 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**
Nov. 21, Dec. 5 & 19 @ 6:00 pm
 (Additional budget meetings TBA)
Wheelock Town Hall
 For the Zoom option, see above

WHEELOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

- **Wednesday Dec. 13 2:00 pm**
 Committee Meets In-Person
@Town Hall All Are Welcome!



To the Cemetery Taskforce

Members: Liz Muckerman, Patti Baker, Wendy & Hannah Tidhar, Joan Alexander, Jason & Wendy Bora, and Tanya Brewer. These **volunteers** worked outdoors in all kinds of weather honoring our dead by cleaning and repairing stones, planting flowers, setting out flags (for veterans) with training/grant funding from the **Vt. Old Cemeteries Association.**

Selectboard News and Notes

As we head into winter, the Selectboard completed interviews for the two vacant full-time road crew positions. New hires, **Luke Stevens** from Barton and **Sean Dernago** of St. Johnsbury, started their duties recently. They report to road commissioner, **Glenn Cole**. Equipment and vehicles are being prepared for the season with some replacements and winterizing.

The town's expense and revenue balance was reported to be in "deficit spending" according to the town treasurer at the Nov. 7 Selectboard meeting. FEMA reimbursements for road repairs from the summer's flood damage may not cover as much of the expenses as anticipated. These expenses and projected road needs will affect the proposed 2024 budget for Town Meeting day in March.

The Selectboard authorized Carol Rossi, town clerk/treasurer, to apply for a grant from the **Preservation Trust of Vermont** to engage an historic preservation expert to assess and make recommendations for the Town Hall's sills and floor trusses. The Trust offers small grants, up to \$500 with a 1:1 match for such purposes. (In 2016 a strong majority of Wheelock voters voted in support of preserving the town hall.)

The Town's contract with the Caledonia County Sheriff's department for speed limit enforcement on Rte 122 (Wheelock Village) and the So. Wheelock Road was completed at the end of October. On average speeders are traveling 10-15 mph over the limit (\$162 fine, with \$130 returned to the town). Wheelock voters may be asked to consider an appropriation for additional speed enforcement at Town Meeting.

Food Drive Success! The Holiday Drive Begins Soon

The Wheelock Community Initiative collected **20+ boxes** of donations for the Thanksgiving food drive with the **Sheffield Food Pantry** (the financial donations total is not available yet). The Pantry serves 80-100 households and some 320 individuals each month in our area.

Holiday Drive collection days for **food and new toys** are on **Tues. 11/28-Thurs. 11/30 and Tues. 12/5-Wed. 12/6 during the Town Hall hours of operation (see below).**

Town Clerk/Treasurer Carol Rossi

Office Hours: Tues. 10:30-5:30; Wed./Thurs. 8:30-2:30
Happy Thanksgiving! Closed: Wed. 11/22 & Thur. 11/23

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



Selectboard:
 Ann Lawless, Chair
 Jim Blackbird
 Andy Buteau



GOT HISTORY?

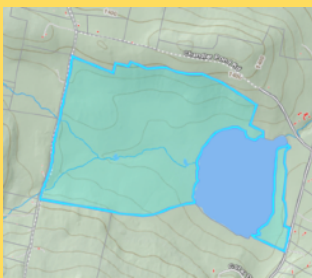
There's no time like the present to learn more about Wheelock's past.

Wheelock's Earliest Settlers

Long before the events covered in this history column, the land in and around Wheelock was part of the hunting and fishing territory of its original inhabitants, the Abenaki people. On **Indigenous Peoples Day**, about 50 people gathered to witness Molly Davies transfer 350-acres of Wheelock forest land to the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation.



As reported in the **News & Citizen** newspaper, the transfer was marked with a ceremonial “*livery of seisen*” or a “*feoffment*”, where Davies handed a tree branch to Chief Don Stevens, leader of the Nulhegan tribe. No money was exchanged in the transaction.



Davies became familiar with the land decades ago when her family would drive over Stannard Mountain. In the 1990s, her family sold a house they owned in Stowe using the proceeds to buy the land. The parcel was 600 acres: 250 agricultural acres and the rest forest covered by 2 conservation deals with the Vermont Land Trust. The agricultural portion was sold 6 years ago.

Last Call for Your Survey Response

With an AARP grant's assistance, the Wheelock Community Initiative (WCI) volunteers completed a “walk audit” through the village on Rte 122 and shared results with residents at the end of August. (See the presentation slides at <https://bit.ly/3PfsHYI>) Now it's your turn to weigh in on the issues by completing this quick survey. Should the Town do any or all of these things:



- Install more noticeable speed limit **signs**?
- Create **crosswalks**?
- Enforce and/or reduce the current **speed limits**?

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CDVSV86>

(Or use the Q Code.) **The survey ends on Saturday November 18.** Send your additional safe walking ideas to: wheelockcmty@gmail.com. (Paper copies and collection box are available at Town Hall)

Special Blood Donation Drive December 9



This time last year, Wheelock resident Dalhia Dill had an emergency C-section that ended with cervical hemorrhage and hysterectomy. She shared that she “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.” After reviewing her own sparse history of donating blood, and with her doctor's permission, she decided to get back to donating this year. Dill is partnering with the Red Cross to sponsor a blood drive in St. Johnsbury, December 9, 2023 from 9:30-1:30 at the Green Mt. Mall/Catamount Art Space, 2000 Memorial Drive. Schedule@: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results...> All donors receive a \$10 Amazon gift card, and are entered to win a \$50 Chandler Pond Farm gift card!

WELCOME!

There were more new residents moving to our community in 2023 than any year in recent memory! The Wheelock Community Initiative has created beautiful **welcome baskets** for each one; filled with goodies and helpful local information. In the last month alone WCI welcomed Mitch and Ana Wilkins, Andrea Deth, and David and Kerry Hussey. WCI members also create sympathy baskets to honor the passing of our community members.

