

WHEELLOCK NEWS



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

Email: wheelockcmt@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/3oCNpFl>

Meeting ID: 810 8003 1813

Passcode: iN9YcK

WHEELLOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

- **Thursday June 8 3:00 pm**
Committee Meets In-Person
Town Hall All Are Welcome!

WCI ANNUAL YARD SALE

- **Saturday June 10 10:00-2:00**
Wheelock Town Hall
On The Green
(See Page 2 for details)

CEMETERY TASKFORCE

- **Tuesday June 20 10:30 am**
Rain or Shine
South Wheelock Cemetery
(See Page 1 for details)

REQUEST FOR BID FOR DITCHING

- **Bids Due Tuesday June 20**
by 5:30 pm

SELECTBOARD MEETING

- **Tuesday June 20 6:00 pm**
Joint Meeting Sheffield Selectboard
- **Tuesday June 20 7:00 pm**
Regular Wheelock Selectboard

Both at Wheelock Town Hall
For the Zoom option, see above

Selectboard News and Notes

The Selectboard amended the **Town Hall rental policy** and procedures at their May 16th meeting. Gatherings were restricted during Covid and out of concern for the unsafe front entry steps (now restored). Residents will not be charged a fee to use Town Hall, but must provide a \$50 security deposit and show proof of insurance (typically a one-day rider on a homeowner's policy).

Various summer road maintenance projects will include work on segments of the South Wheelock Road, Sutton Hill, and Vertical Mile.

Members voted to rescind an April 2023 vote allowing **VASA (Vermont ATV Sportman's Association)** to establish a trailhead and kiosk on the town-owned property adjacent to Town Hall. (The VASA proposal was not warned on the April agenda.)

Wheelock Community Initiative members advised the Selectboard that they are researching designs and grant opportunities to develop a proposal for an **accessible playground and gazebo** in the space. The Selectboard authorized Chair Ann Lawless to apply for technical assistance from the **Vermont Healthy Communities** team to help integrate results from the town's walkability study (see the AARP grant on page 2) into this community-wide playmaking center.

Cemetery Task Force Seeks Volunteers

The Taskforce and a small group of volunteers (including a 10 year old!) has a big work agenda after they hold a short business meeting on **Tuesday, June 20, 10:30 AM at the South Wheelock Cemetery**. In addition to grass seeding, fence inspection, and other stone work, they will wash stones, and dig and carry gravel to the holes before putting them back into the ground. More volunteers are need for this important restoration work; **especially anyone with a small pickup to drive a load of gravel into the cemetery**. If you can give time and energy to this project, contact Liz Muckerman, text only please, at 802-535-4860.



Town Clerk Vanessa Seguin



Office Hours: Tues. 10:30-5:30; Wed./Thurs. 8:30-2:30
Email: wheelocktown@gmail.com
Phone: 802-626-9094
P. O. Box 1328, 1192 Route 122, Wheelock VT 05851
OFFICE CLOSED THURSDAY JUNE 29



Selectboard:
 Ann Lawless, Chair
 Jim Blackbird
 Andy Bateau

GOT HISTORY?

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

**The Historic Markers...
Where Are They Now? Pt.2**

Perhaps the most prominent of the markers **Ferdinand (Ferd) Chase** (1840-1917) gifted to the town is the **Civil War monument** on the Town Hall Green. (During the war, Chase enlisted in the 6th Vermont.)

According to the town's national historic district registration, prepared by Tracy Nichae Martin:

"On Memorial Day, May 29, 1915, residents of Wheelock gathered on the common for the unveiling of a monument to memorialize local soldiers who served in the Civil War."

Made of Barre granite, the four-sided block stands eight feet tall (including a two-stage granite base) and weighs 12 tons with a bronze plaque inscribed:

*"Lest We Forget. Erected 1915.
In memory of those who enlisted from
Wheelock in the War of the Rebellion
1861-1865."*

On either side of the block are plaques listing the men from Wheelock who served as privates during the war and on the back another lists noncommissioned officers under the state seal.

The **Boston Globe** described the dedication ceremony on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Civil War:

"If any town should honor the memory of her soldier dead, it is this little town which sent eighty six men, or one tenth of her entire population of 835 to fight for the Union.

Of the eighty-six who went out from Wheelock, thirty did not return, three died in Andersonville and one on Belle Isle.

Mr. Chase also placed a boulder in the village cemetery with a tablet marking the grave of Samuel Follett, a veteran of the War of 1812, and a tablet on the headstone of Benjamin Carter, a soldier of both the Revolution and the War of 1812."

AARP Awards Grant for WCI's "Walkability Study"

With the Selectboard's support, the Wheelock Community Initiative (WCI) committee drafted a successful grant proposal (\$2500) to improve walking safety in the village. **Route 122 has a posted village speed limit of 35 mph, which is widely ignored and rarely enforced.** With no safe pathways or crosswalks, residents and visitors are forced to drive within the village, even for short distances, to visit neighbors, go to the store, or conduct business at Town Hall.

The Wheelock Community Initiative (WCI) is leading the project and will conduct "walk audits" this summer along Rte 122 in the village to identify walking hazards, potential crosswalk locations, and ways to enforce the village speed limit (three WCI members live in the village).

The audit team will host a community meeting open to residents, business owners, the Selectboard and Planning Commission to discuss their results and how to incorporate them in future town planning.

More volunteers are welcome—email wheelockcmty@gmail.com !

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!



The Wheelock Community Initiative Annual Yard Sale is here!
Wheelock Town Hall Green
Sat. June 10 from 10 AM to 2 PM
Sell your stuff or pick up some bargains!
Reserve your space and a table for \$10.
Call 626-3109 Email wheelockcmty@gmail.com

Donations Wanted for the Summer Food Drive

Food insecurity is a year-round struggle for some families. In fact, it is more difficult during the summer when school meals are not an option. The Wheelock Community Initiative will collect **food and check donations to the Sheffield Food Pantry** (open to Wheelock residents) at the Wheelock Town Hall during office hours on June 20-22; June 27 & 28; and end on July 6 at noon.



NEKBB Project Update



The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture has announced more than **\$17 million in new federal funding** for NEK Broadband to expand high-speed internet access in the Northeast Kingdom. Crews will be working on area utility poles well into the fall. Before "stringing fiber" aging poles need replacing, while others will be moved from the woods and fields to more accessible roadside locations.

You can **register to receive regular email updates** about the progress and get notices for when this new service will be available in your area by logging onto get.nekbroadband.org. Signing up for these updates does not oblige you to enroll in the service when it is available.