



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

WCI FOOD DRIVE ENDS!

- **Thursday July 6 noon**
Wheelock Town Hall
Or mail a donation to:
Sheffield Food Pantry
P.O. Box 36
Sheffield, VT 05866

SELECTBOARD MEETING

- **Thursday July 6 6:00 PM**
(Reconvened Meeting)
- **Tuesday July 18 6:00 pm**
Regular Meeting
Wheelock Town Hall
For the Zoom option, see above

WHEELOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

- **Thursday July 13 2:00 pm**
Committee Meets In-Person
Town Hall All Are Welcome!

CEMETERY TASKFORCE

- **Tuesday July 20 10:30 am**
Rain or Shine
South Wheelock Cemetery
Jills Hill Road
Questions? Contact Liz Muckerman
text 802-535-4860

Selectboard News and Notes

At their regular meeting on June 20, the Selectboard decided to recess the meeting at 8:15 PM and reconvene on Thurs. July 6, to address the remaining agenda items not covered at the June meeting. The Sheffield and Wheelock Selectboards met before the Wheelock regular meeting. They ratified the towns' joint transfer station contract and adopted a performance evaluation process and a plan to discuss compensation in December. Station operation hours remain Wednesdays and Saturdays 8am to 5pm.



Selectboard:

Ann Lawless, Chair
Jim Blackbird
Andy Bateau

AARP Community Challenge Grant for Walk Audit

The annual *AARP Community Challenge* grant program funds innovative projects nationwide that inspire change in areas such as public places. This year, AARP is also increasing its investment in rural communities and **Wheelock was one of six grantees in Vermont** (in the new capacity-building micro-grant category) receiving **\$2500** to improve walking safety in our village.

With Selectboard support, Wheelock Community Initiative (WCI) volunteers will lead the project. They will conduct "walk audits" in July along Rte 122 in the village to identify hazards **to all levels of mobility**; potential crosswalk locations; and ways to enforce the village speed limit. AARP Vt is supplying t-shirts and safety vests, speed guns, and technical support from America Walks <https://americawalks.org/>.

A **community meeting** is planned for late August to share the walk audit results with residents (enjoy a free meal!). WCI will be seeking attendees' ideas and feedback on how to incorporate the findings into future town planning to complete these important improvements.

Come join us! Help create a safe, more walking-friendly village. More volunteers are needed! Email wheelockcmty@gmail.com



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



GOT HISTORY?

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

Revolutionary War Soldiers in Wheelock, Pt. 1

In the early 1900's, three of Wheelock's native sons shared a common interest in the town's history: Ferdinand Chase, William H. Taylor, and Ozias D. Mathewson. Eleanor Jones Hutchinson, author of **Town of Wheelock** (1961), recounts that they collected materials intending to publish a book, but the death of each prevented them from realizing it.

Ms. Hutchinson included a chapter by Judge Taylor in her book describing the soldiers' life stories. The chapter opens:

It is doubtful if any town settled after the war had more Revolutionary soldiers among its pioneers than did the town of Wheelock.

At least 16 of its 64 original lessees had seen service in the war for independence; and the names of no less than 31 of its early settlers appear on the Revolutionary rolls.

It is altogether probable that the roll for Wheelock is incomplete, notwithstanding the care that has been taken in preparation.

It is exceedingly unfortunate that no record of these names was made until so long after those who could have given the information had passed away. The rolls, however, are incomplete, and it is fair to assume that the record of service, which we are able to give, is only a partial one.

Taylor outlines each soldier's Wheelock connection and wartime experience. Many of their names are recognizable from headstones in our local cemeteries or their local descendants. We will feature a few of these brave forebearers in future editions of the newsletter.

Are you a descendant of a Wheelock Revolutionary War soldier?

If so, we would love to hear from you!

Email Eileen Boland at:

wheelockcmty@gmail.com.

Vermont Healthy Communities

The Vermont Department of Health is partnering with the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development to offer a **Health Equity and Community Design Technical Assistance (TA) Pilot**. This program provides **free** technical assistance for communities to develop their own healthy community designs and projects.



Selectboard chair, Ann Lawless, filed a successful application to the TA Pilot, so the Wheelock Community Initiative is receiving assistance to develop a proposal for an **accessible recreation space and gazebo** on the property adjacent to Town Hall.

NEK Broadband Project Update



Vermont is set to receive nearly **\$229 million in federal funding to expand broadband access** — a sum that will get state officials significantly closer to their goal of connecting every resident to fiber optic, high-speed internet. This allotment comes from a \$42.45 billion federal initiative to expand broadband across all 50 states, the DC area, and five territories.

Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCCB), which supports and coordinates all Vermont's regional broadband projects, has identified **fiber optic as the most reliable and best suited type of broadband infrastructure for Vermont's rural landscape**.

According to the VCCB chair: "If you look at fiber optic Internet, it by far exceeds the capacity of cable, it's much more reliable than wireless, and it's certainly a heck of a lot better than what people are using today."

With your help, NEK Broadband, which serves Vermont's most rural communities, will be able to secure a significant piece of that \$229 million pie. If you complete the **Vermont Internet for All Planning: Public Survey** bit.ly/3rfUTSM it will greatly improve the VCCB's understanding of the need and challenges of delivering broadband in our region. Securing more grant money means reduced borrowing (bonds) and lower, more affordable monthly service fees for NEK residents.

You can **register to receive regular email updates** about the NEK project's progress and receive notices of service availability in your area by logging onto get.nekbroadband.org. Signing up for updates does not oblige you to enroll in the service when it is available.

Taskforce Members Bring Order and Honor

Wheelock's Cemetery Taskforce: Patti Baker, Wendy Tidhar, Hannah Tidhar (age 10!), and Liz Muckerman, with assistance from Tanya Brewer and Jason Bora (stone setting), have put a lot of time and energy into restoring and improving the South Wheelock Cemetery this spring and summer. The wet weather has posed challenges for this work, as well as for the mowing operations in all the cemeteries. Volunteers are always welcome to help with cemetery care, both at meetings (see the calendar on page one) and at other times. Please contact any task force member for more info.