

# WHEELOCK NEWS



**Wheelock Community Initiative** <https://wheelockcmt.org/>

**Email:** [wheelockcmt@gmail.com](mailto:wheelockcmt@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**

- **Tuesdays @ 6:00 pm**  
**Sept. 19, Oct. 3, Oct. 17**  
**Wheelock Town Hall**

For the Zoom option, see above

**WHEELOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE**

- **Thursday Oct. 12 3:00 pm**  
Committee Meets In-Person  
**Town Hall All Are Welcome!**

**CEMETERY TASKFORCE**

- **Tuesday Sept. 19 10:30 am**  
**South Wheelock Cemetery**
- **Tuesday October 17 10:30 pm**  
**Place TBD**

**Questions?** Contact Liz Muckerman  
text 802-535-4860

**Vanessa Seguin & Mark Buonanno**



**For your service to Wheelock!**

**Selectboard News and Notes**

Summer’s extraordinary rain storms have certainly been memorable, not only for the extensive damage to the town’s unpaved roads and the Town Hall’s flooded basement office, but for the toll it has taken on the town’s employees.

Both Vanessa Seguin, the town clerk, treasurer, and selectboard minutes clerk, and the town’s road supervisor, Mark Buonanno, have resigned.

Carol Rossi, who has prior experience in the roles, is currently serving as interim town clerk/treasurer.

Information about the recruitment to fill the town clerk/treasurer positions can be found on the town’s website: <https://bit.ly/3PwjAnE>. The highway worker recruitment is at: <https://townofwheelockvt.org/>. Part-time, short-term road workers are filling in.

Selectboard members are devoting many hours covering duties from road repairs and mitigating Town Hall flooding, to completing FEMA’s extensive paperwork in an effort to secure reimbursement for it.

The Selectboard minutes clerk position records the monthly meeting proceeding and submits them within five days. Pay is \$100 per meeting. A letter of interest to the Wheelock Selectboard can be submitted to [wheelocktown@gmail.com](mailto:wheelocktown@gmail.com) or to the mailing address below.

To address some of the town’s unreliable road equipment, Selectboard members recently approved a \$35,000 purchase of a grader using ARPA grant funds (with wing, plow, extra blades, and delivery). They will add the \$35,000 amount to the budget for town meeting to reimburse the ARPA fund or to put it in a reserve fund.

Water damage to the Town Hall’s basement municipal offices has required a variety of continuing mitigation efforts, i.e., removing debris and wall coverings, purchasing a de-humidifier, and fixing sump pump breakdowns and overflow pipe damager.

The Selectboard will meet with a FEMA representative on Sept. 15 at Town Hall. Then the Selectboard will have 60 days to submit the town’s request for monies to cover these many flood disaster recovery efforts.

**Municipal Office Hours**



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

**Email:** [wheelocktown@gmail.com](mailto:wheelocktown@gmail.com)

**Phone:** 802-626-9094

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



**Selectboard:**

Ann Lawless, Chair

Jim Blackbird

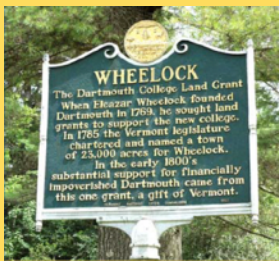
Andy Buteau

**GOT HISTORY?**

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

**Dartmouth College's Gift to Wheelock-Or Is It?**

At first glance, it may seem like Dartmouth College's "tuition free" option for any child from Wheelock is unbelievable, but the college owes its existence to Wheelock. The commitment goes back to when founder Eleazar Wheelock's son and second president, John, was desperate to pay its bills. The Vermont legislature responded to his request for help in 1785 by granting Dartmouth 23,000 acres in a town it named Wheelock.



Dartmouth collected rents from Wheelock residents (farmers and trades people) who paid in cash, goods, and in-kind services. The offer of free tuition (excludes room and board) "to **any son of the town of Wheelock, Vermont, either by birth or residence**" was made sometime in the 1830s, when then Dartmouth president, Nathan Lord, was in town collecting rents.

Ozias D. Mathewson, Dartmouth Class of 1890, was the first to hold Dartmouth to the pledge. In 1930, when he was headmaster of the Lyndon Institute, he asked Dartmouth President Ernest Hopkins to put the promise in writing.

The gift's language is loosely written, and is **currently interpreted to include daughters as well as sons**, but it has been rarely used and, so far, has not been abused.

**Community Considers Walk Audit Findings**

With the assistance of an AARP grant, (WCI) volunteers hosted the community to a catered meal and a presentation about their "walk audit" findings for Rte 122 through the village. (The full presentation at the WCI website: [bit.ly/3PfsHYI](http://bit.ly/3PfsHYI)) Kelly Stoddard Poor, Vermont's AARP Associate State Director, assisted with the presentation and distributed free safe walking tools. Liam Abatte, NVDA transportation planner, provided information about transportation issues in the NEK.



Attendees discussed three main strategies addressing village speeding, which makes it dangerous for pedestrians of all ages and abilities.

**Crosswalks:** Two possible locations were identified: from the village cemetery to Town Hall (the only parking area for cemetery visitors); and at the eastern edge of the Wheelock Village Store.

**Speed:** The Selectboard has contracted Sheriff Hemond's deputies to conduct speed enforcement for the village and the So. Wheelock Road until October. After considering the fact that most drivers *drive at a speed that they consider to be comfortable and safe, regardless of the posted speed limit*, attendees discussed some ways to make speeding uncomfortable, such as, a center lane rumble strip and wider, walkable shoulders.

**Signage:** Installing more noticeable signs to alert drivers to the village limits (such as the solar powered signs in Glover village), crosswalk locations, the presence of pedestrians, and the school bus stop.

**Next Steps:** After reviewing these helpful discussions, WCI is considering requesting a (free) study by the Vermont Traffic Control Board, followed by a VTrans "scoping study" supported by grants.

**Wheelock Resident Wins Chili Cook-Off**

Sheffield celebrated its 75th Field Day (Labor Day) with a new **Chili Cook-Off Contest** event. Cook-off organizer and WCI member, **Tanya Brewer**, announced the panel of tasters voted Wheelock resident, **Steve Avery's** to be "The Best" of all the entries!



**Wheelock's Little Libraries**



Thanks to **Bradley Brewer's** time and materials donations, Wheelock has two, new "little libraries". **The book-sharing boxes are open seven days a week, 24 hours a day and are freely accessible to all.**



One box is at the So. Wheelock fire station and the other is scheduled for installation by Town Hall. Millers Run art students created drawings on the Town Hall box.

In their short time as Wheelock residents, Bradley and his wife Tanya have enthusiastically volunteered time, energy, and materials to our community. They will be moving soon to a new home in N.H., where they will have more room for their farming dreams than their Wheelock village home.

**Thank you and good luck in your new adventure!**