



WHEELLOCK NEWS

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

Email: wheelockcmty@gmail.com
Phone: 802-626-3109, leave message



Meeting notices and documents available on the 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 Jan. 30 and Feb. 20 @ 6:00 pm In-Person and Zoom**

Wheelock Town Hall

WHEELLOCK

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

- **Thursday Feb. 8 2:30 pm**
Committee Meets In-Person
@Town Hall All Are Welcome!

TOWN MEETING

- **Tuesday, March 5 9:00 am**
Wheelock Town Hall
Polls open
10:00 am — 7:00 pm
KINGDOM EAST
SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE



To the Selectboard, Town Clerk and Treasurer for your work preparing the 2024 Town Meeting Warning

Selectboard News and Notes

Wheelock residents, your town needs you! Several elected positions will be up for a vote at Town Meeting on 3/5/24:

- **Selectboard** 3 yr. (currently Jim Blackbird)
 - **Town Clerk* and Treasurer**, both 2 yr. terms (currently Carol Rossi)
 - **Lister** 3 yr. term (currently Carol Rossi), a second lister position may also be needed.
 - **Two Auditor** positions (one 3 yr. currently Kim Crady-Smith) and a two year position (filling a vacancy).
 - The **Planning Commission** (appointed by the Selectboard) has four vacancies (current members Enid Ellis and Scott Lange); a minimum of three members is needed for the commission to take any action.
- *The town meeting warning will include an article for the Selectboard to appoint a town clerk and/or treasurer in the event no one is elected to these positions.

Welcome, Marina Cole, newly appointed minutes clerk for Selectboard meetings!

(See page 2 for more Selectboard news)

Kingdom East FY' 25 School Budget

Thanks to the school district's budget materials, available at: <https://www.kingdomeast.org/budget> Wheelock voters will be well informed to cast their votes on March 5. Of the 255

households in Wheelock during fiscal year 2024 affected by the education property tax, 161 received a tax break through income sensitivity. The estimated increase is \$0.2155 for fiscal year 2025.

Town of Wheelock - ESTIMATED Education Tax Rate Calculation

Wheelock FY24 Tax Rate = \$1.4787
(after FY24 CLA was applied)

FY25 Kingdom East Tax Rate = \$1.3255

Wheelock FY25 CLA* = 78.24%

\$1.3255 / 78.24% = **\$1.6942 FY25 Town of Wheelock ESTIMATED Education Tax Rate**

*CLA = Common Level of Appraisal
FY24 Wheelock CLA = 88.37%
FY24 Wheelock Tax Rate = \$1.4787

Town Clerk/Treasurer Carol Rossi

NEW Hours: Tues./Thurs. 8:30-3:00; Wed. 10:30-5:30

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.

Postcards That Tell a Story

No doubt social media and electronic communications have largely replaced sending handwritten letters or postcards. They offer a record of times, people, places, and activities long gone. Wheelock resident Tyler Harter shared a colorized, undated postcard of one of the "Twin Bridge(s)".



The bridge, no longer in existence, can be found on the Wheelock map in the **1875 Beers Atlas Caledonia County**.



(The Peak Road bridge is to the left.)

If it were still in use in 1927**, it is hard to imagine that this wooden structure was able to withstand the ravages of the historic floods that year. (**Can anyone confirm it?)

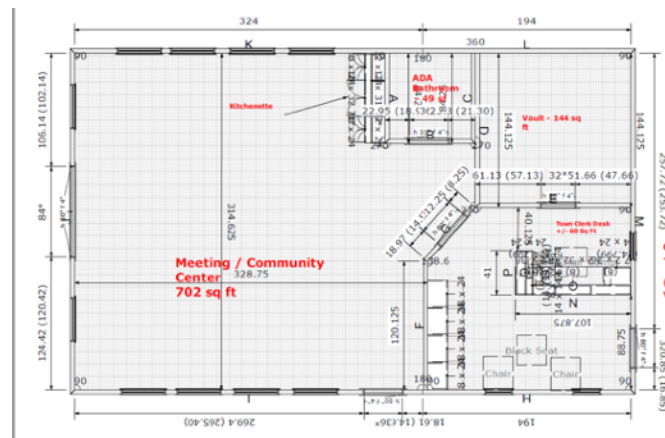


*Town of Wheelock:
Vermont's Gift to Dartmouth College
Eleanor Jones Hutchinson*

Selectboard Prepares for Town Meeting

The Selectboard continues to collect information to support the town's FEMA reimbursement claims for repairing July's flood-damaged roads. These un-budgeted costs contribute to a significant highway deficit (-\$45K, "year not closed or audited"). Voters will consider several big-ticket proposals to replace some road equipment. Increased staff costs (salaries/benefits) will also be included. Andy Buteau announced the winter plow routes have been reconfigured with the aim of having **all roads plowed by 6:30 am**.

July's extreme weather also affected the town's municipal office, which has revived discussions about **Town Hall's structural and ADA issues**. Earlier the Selectboard had set aside the ARPA grant to address these issues, however the fund has been tapped for other expenses. Some Selectboard members have returned to the idea of a establishing a municipal office on the Sutton Road property above the Town Hall. The Selectboard-appointed 2020 Taskforce, which included local contractors, assessed this option. A modest renovation of the existing structure (office, small meeting space, ADA bathroom, vault) was estimated to cost \$447,00-\$545,000 without any grant options. The site may be a "brown field". There have been two fires (a school and a residence); it once hosted a auto repair garage; and for a time it was used as an illegal dump.



For WCI 2023 was a very good year !

12 Editions of "Wheelock News"

2 Fundraisers:

- March: 77 Chicken Pot Pies made/sold
- June: Yard Sale on the Green

2 Free Little Libraries:

Town Hall and the So. Wheelock Fire Station

3 Food Drives (and holiday toy drive) for the local pantry in Sheffield

6 Welcome Baskets of baked goods, etc. for new residents

5 Sympathy Baskets for residents who had relatives passing

1 Supersized monitor and mobil cart for meetings in Town Hall

1 Successful AARP grant proposal to improve village walkability

A small team with a mighty mission!

**Please join us on the second Thursday of every month
2:30 PM at Town Hall.**

Members: Enid Ellis, Ann Lawless, Hélène Millas, Carolyn Nolan, Linda Rhodes, Eileen Boland...and new members are always welcome.