



# WHEELLOCK NEWS

**Wheelock Community Initiative** <https://wheelockcmty.org/> **Email:** [wheelockcmty@gmail.com](mailto:wheelockcmty@gmail.com)  
**Facebook:** <https://bit.ly/49P2Gb3> **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**

- **Tuesday March 19**  
**@ 6:00 pm In-Person and Zoom**  
**Wheelock Town Hall**

Dates and Times of Future Meetings will be set at this meeting.

**2024 DOG LICENSES DUE ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1**

Neutered/Spayed \$9.00

Not Neutered/Spayed \$13.00

**\$2 late fee after April 1, 2024**

**WHEELLOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE**

- **Thursday April 11 2:30 pm**  
**Committee Meets In-Person**  
**@Town Hall: All Are Welcome!**

**HS-122 Vt. TAX DEPARTMENT HOMESTEAD DECLARATION DUE**

- **DUE APRIL 15**  
**Every resident homeowner** in Vermont must file this form every year so your homestead tax is correct.

**Don't risk being over-taxed!**

<http://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration>

**Selectboard News and Notes**



**Selectboard:**

Ann Lawless, Chair  
 Mike Richardson  
 Jason Bora

**W**heelock's 2024 Town Meeting will be one for the record books; running a full seven hours without a break.

**Peter Miller** was quickly re-elected as moderator and helped guide the deliberations. **Carol Rossi** was also re-elected to the positions of Town Clerk and Treasurer (which she was appointed to last summer). Her goal is to conduct a recruitment effort for an assistant who could be trained to assume these important roles. Wheelock's representative, **Dennis LaBounty** (Cal.3) addressed attendees about legislation under consideration in Montpelier.

The resignation of Andy Buteau from the Selectboard and Jim Blackbird not seeking re-election created two vacancies, which were filled by **Jason Bora** and **Mike Richardson**. Both have prior experience serving the town. Re-elections also included **Kim-Crady Smith** as auditor. **Scott Lange** will cover the remainder of Steve Amos's auditor term; **Emily Purdy**, remains the delinquent tax collector; and **Atti Seguin** and **Charles Lacaillade** are 1st and 2nd constable respectively.

With mud season in progress, Wheelock's roads, and the equipment to maintain them, were of concern to attendees. Residents considered all the related issues in the warning <https://bit.ly/49JELyI>. **Article 6:** "total highway fund expenditures of \$464,356 of which \$360,216 shall be raised by taxes \$104,140 by non-tax revenue" and **Article 7:** for "the purchase of a new dump truck...in an amount not to exceed \$240,262" generated the longest and most detailed discussions. Both articles passed, however.

Although the **Kingdom East School Budget** was considered by Australian ballot, it was on the minds of attendees as they examined the municipal budget. After close scrutiny, and much discussion, all the "money articles" passed. School budget ballots from all towns in the district are co-mingled (no separate Wheelock tally). That budget was voted down. A new proposal before July is likely. Under "any other business" Wheelock's **NEK Broadband** rep, Eileen Boland, stayed to answer questions about the project. (An update is included on page 2.)

**Wheelock's Presidential primary results:**

**Republican** votes: Trump 52, Haley 32, DeSantis 4, Christie 2.

**Democratic** votes: Biden 48, Williamson 5, Phillips 3, Greenstein 1.

**Town Clerk/Treasurer Carol Rossi**

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

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

**Raffle!**

**W**inner of the raffle hosted by WCI at Town Meeting and online for a new copy of: **Town of Wheelock Vermont's Gift to Dartmouth College By Eleanor Jones Hutchinson was Chelsea Tuttle.**

**Wheelock Schools**

**W**heelock's first town meeting made no provision for "hiring schooling" (establishing schools), but at the **March 10, 1794** meeting it was voted "*to raise 20 pounds L. M. (lawful money) to hire schooling.*"

**Vermont's General Assembly** passed an act in 1797 requiring each organized town to "*keep and support a school, or schools, for the instruction of youth in English, reading, writing and arithmetick.*"

Towns could divide into as many school districts "*as shall be judged most convenient.*" Travel was difficult, so Wheelock was first divided into six (possibly seven) sections, or "Classes", with a school in each, usually in a home.

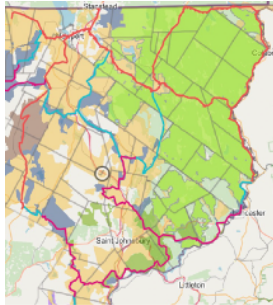
By 1798, the town was raising 70 dollars for schooling, and spelled out how residents would pay their portion. "*Two thirds of which is to be paid in labour at the common price of labour at the time said labour is done, and 1/3 in provisions or cash.*"

By 1817, Wheelock had 8 districts and assessed different tax rates for each. Districts grew to 12 by 1929, with an enrollment of "**315 children** over four years of age and under 18 years."

By comparison, the 2023-2024 combined K-12 enrollment of Wheelock and Sheffield is **205 students**.

**What's Next For Broadband In Wheelock?**

**I**n addition to the **NEK Broadband** project's 2023 annual report in the Town Report, <https://bit.ly/3Tctkns>, Wheelock's progress (one of the 56 NEK member towns) has been steady. Our district includes Essex, Orleans, Caledonia, and Wolcott (Lamoille county).



**Red Line-Backbone**

The top question for most people is "**when can I get the service?**". The answer depends, in part, upon where you live, where the utility poles are located, who owns them, and their readiness to accept the fiber lines. Wheelock is served by **four utilities**: GMP, Lyndon Electric, Washington Electric, Vermont Electric Coop. Each one has poles in various stages of readiness to string fiber. The location of the poles in relation to the "backbone" (major lines) is also a factor.

**Here are the Wheelock addresses that have the service available now:**

BEAN POND ROAD Eg11 Addresses 696-1081	LEACH LANE Eg11 Addresses 25-107
BURROUGHS ROAD Eg11 Addresses 528-785	3043 PEAK ROAD
326 CHANDLER POND	S. WHEELOCK ROAD Eg11 Addresses 4228-5042
COLD HILL Eg11 Addresses 1946- 2620	TAMPICO ROAD Eg11 Addresses 4121-4368
DERRICKS DRIVE Eg11 Addresses 42-76	84 TOWNSEND

**Wheelock addresses scheduled to come online in 2024:**

BALLFIELD ROAD Eg11 Addresses 6-85	MINISTER HILL ROAD Eg11 Addresses 52-726
BEAN POND ROAD Eg11 Addresses 1374-1496	PEAK ROAD Eg11 Addresses 2045-2868
988 CHANDLER POND	RED SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD Eg11 Addresses 36-681
JILLS HILL Eg11 Addresses 24-432	SOUTH WHEELOCK ROAD Eg11 Addresses 5170-6216
JOHN ROCK ROAD Eg11 Addresses 79-333	

In light of all these factors, it is difficult to pin down availability beyond 2024. However, **you can get email updates** on the progress in your area and register for the service at: <https://get.nekbroadband.org/>

**Wheelock Community Initiative**

*A small team with a mighty mission!*

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

*Contact information at the top of page 1.*

