

THE MILLER'S RUN



Wheelock Community Initiative <https://wheelockcmty.org/> **Email** wheelockcmty@gmail.com

Facebook <https://bit.ly/3weRn94>

Phone: 802-626-3109, leave message



Information is posted for these meetings and other notices at the Town Hall message boards and at <https://townofwheelockvt.org/>

WHEELOCK SELECTBOARD

* **TUESDAY, Nov. 2, 6:00 pm**

TOWN HALL ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT

Committee Meeting

• **MONDAY, Nov. 8, 6:00 pm**

FOR BOTH MEETINGS

In Person: Wheelock Town Hall
Masks/social distancing required

By Phone: +1-646-558-8656
Meeting ID: 810 8003 1813
Passcode: 055553

By Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3DFnbXt>
Meeting ID: 810 8003 1813
Passcode: iN9YcK

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 27, 9:30 am

Details at: <https://bit.ly/3DRzkJl>

Selectboard News and Notes

The projected completion date for the Stannard Mountain Road bridge project is Friday, October 15. Late delivery of the guardrails delayed this road improvement.

A notice of a vacancy created by the resignation of Bobbie Jo Norcross from the office of SelectBoard is effective as of Oct. 7, 2021. Persons interested in being appointed to fill this vacancy should submit a letter of interest to:
**Town of Wheelock PO Box 1328, Lyndonville, VT 05851
no later than 5:30 pm Nov 2.**

The letter may be submitted in person or send submissions to wheelocktown@gmail.com. Postmarks of Nov. 2 will not be recognized due to the scheduled regular Selectboard meeting on that same day.

Citizens have the right to petition for a vote (signed by 5% of the legal voters of the town) to replace the Selectboard's appointee at a special Town Meeting. If a special town meeting is called, the newly elected town officer will remain in office for the balance of the unexpired term, which is slated to end on Town Meeting Day, 2023. If a special Town Meeting is not called, the Selectboard's appointee will remain in office until the next annual Town Meeting.

Property Tax Bills Due Friday, Nov. 5, 2021

The Town Clerk's Office will have special office hours to accept property tax payments on **Friday November 5, 2021 from 12:00 pm to 5:30 pm**. Payments can also be made online, over the phone, or in the town office with your credit/debit card.

Town Clerk Vanessa Seguin

Office Hours: Tues. 12:00-5:30; Wed./Thurs. 9:00-2:30

Email: wheelocktown@gmail.com

Phone: 802-626-9094

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



Selectboard:
Ann Lawless, Chair
Jim Blackbird



To the **Fire Department** for setting up/taking down the tent for the 9/27 Town Hall Community Meeting!

Project Construction Costs

TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS
- MINUS GRANTS AND DONATIONS
= AMOUNT TO BE BORROWED

When a construction project bond vote is passed, it sets in motion many ways to **reduce borrowing and lower the effect on property taxes.** The project can then be put out to bid, grants submitted, and donations sought for labor/materials (suppliers, residents, Technical Center, Work Camp, etc.).

📖 GOT HISTORY? 📖

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

Wheelock Village Floods

Wheelock suffered two major floods in the 20th Century, in 1927 and 1973. The **1927 flood** caused serious damage to the village. *“Millers Run and other tributaries of the Passumpsic rising within the township, did cause considerable havoc. In the Hollow, Millers Run rushed down the road at the head of the village...undermining the sawmill and several houses (and) carried off a large amount of lumber and two bridges below the village.”***

On June 23, 1973 the Burlington Free Press reported that *“Route 122 was closed its entire length”* and the Caledonian Record reported on June 22 that water on the road was four feet deep.

The town garage is located in the village on the bank above the Miller's Run in Zone A; what FEMA calls *“a special flood hazard area”*, and does not meet current workplace health and safety regulations.

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



1927 Flood

Wheelock Town Hall Accessibility Project

A good turn-out of residents, project committee members, and technical consultants came together on the rainy evening of Sept. 27 for a Covid-safe, outdoor meeting to learn about the two design concepts to address the lack of ADA access to our town services and events. There was high interest and great feedback shared.



The majority of residents responding to the **May 2021 Project Survey** chose these two distinct design concepts: “make it better” and “combined facilities”. Both preferences were presented and focused on the project goals:

✓ SAFE

ALL VIOLATIONS ADDRESSED
 FIRE AND SAFETY CODES MET
 ENSURE HEALTHY SPACES WITH IMPROVED AIR QUALITY, TEMPERATURE, AND HUMIDITY

✓ ACCESSIBLE

ALL CITIZENS, WORKERS, AND VISITORS TO TOWN HALL HAVE ACCESS TO ALL PUBLIC SPACES REGARDLESS OF ABILITY

✓ USEFUL & DURABLE

AVAILABLE AGAIN FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS
 SPACES ARE MORE ATTRACTIVE FOR EVENTS THAT GENERATE INCOME
 ADDRESSES ALL DEFERRED MAINTENANCE WITH NEW AND MORE DURABLE MATERIALS

In addition to the mailer sent to all residents explaining the project, the minutes and links to a **recording of the full meeting** are available at the Town website: <https://townofwheelockvt.org/>

Community feedback will help determine which concept to develop into a single proposal for the **U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)**. Residents can weigh in with their ideas by either placing notes in the **comments box** at the Wheelock Village Store or Wheelock Town Hall, or respond on-line at: <http://placesense.com/wheelock/>.

The window for comments closes on Sunday, October 17.

Our town's agreement with the DOJ requires the town and voters to:

- Outline a proposal for creating a code-compliant facility by **12/30/21**
- Approve the proposal at the **March 2022 Town Meeting**
- Complete construction bid contracts by **August 31, 2022**
- Start construction on the proposal no later than **7/31/2023**

Doing nothing is no longer an option. This timeline is generous, but strict. Non-compliance leaves the town open to a DOJ lawsuit which, at minimum, will require costly legal defense. It can also invite additional plaintiffs alleging discrimination entitling them to receive monetary damages. The lack of access will still need to be addressed in the end, at much greater expense, with no regard for voters' preferences.

Join your Wheelock friends and neighbors considering this important project. Check out the two concepts and then share your ideas, concerns, and preferences before the October 17 deadline.