

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

- * **12/7 Monthly Meeting, 6 pm**
- Budget 12/9, 12/16, & 12/30, 6 pm**

CEMETERY TASKFORCE

12/7 Presents Report to Selectboard

TOWN HALL ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT

Committee Meeting

- **MONDAY, Dec. 13, 6:00 pm**

FOR ALL 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

Selectboard News and Notes

Three candidates responded to the notice of a vacancy created by the resignation of Bobbie Jo Norcross from the office of SelectBoard: Dennis Sawyer, Richard St. Jean, and Michael Richardson. Michael was appointed to fill the seat until the 2022 Town Meeting. Thank you to Bobbie Jo for her service and to Dennis and Richard for responding to the notice.

Wheelock residents may know Michael as the owner of the “Chainsaw” on Stannard Mt. Road. He brings a broad set of skills and experiences, including forestry, excavating, and road building, as well as, 15 years working in human services with a master’s degree in the field.

In addition to running a business, Michael and his spouse, Erin Ferland, who is a teacher at Lakeview Elementary School in Greensboro, are kept pretty busy raising an infant and pre-school child.

Michael felt it was important to “pitch in if you can” to help our town and describes his views as “middle of the road”. He is open to a variety of ideas and opinions in this important role.



Selectboard:
Ann Lawless, Chair
Jim Blackbird
Michael Richardson

Wheelock Town Meeting Update

The Town Clerk spoke with the Vermont Secretary of State’s office which advised that floor votes are required to be held within the township of Wheelock; thus, town meeting can’t be held at the Miller’s Run School in Sheffield. Should the town wish to challenge this rule, consulting first with the town’s attorney was advised.

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



To **Laurie Warden** for volunteering to care for the raising and lowering of the cemetery’s military flags.



West Wheelock Clean Up

A mild morning on Sunday Nov. 7 brought out a big volunteer crew to clear brush and spruce up the **West Wheelock Cemetery**. From the left: the Richard and Cindy St. Jean family, Paul Tomasi, Joan Alexander (member of Glover's cemetery committee), Laurie Warden, Ann Lawless, Tanya and Bradley Brewer, Liz Muckerman, and Steve Amos. Not in the photo: Andy Purdy and Cedric Alexander (Cabot).

2020 Census Affects Wheelock District

Under the Vermont Constitution, the General Assembly is periodically "re-apportioned" to reflect the changing population based on the recent census.

On Oct. 15, the Vermont Legislative Apportionment Board (LAB) voted 4-3 in favor of a **draft map proposal for single member House legislative districts** to send to local Boards of Civil Authority (BCAs) for feedback on the proposed district subdivisions.

The Apportionment Board drafts the initial plan and the General Assembly, drawing from this plan, enacts the system for the ensuing decade.

This proposal would change the current Orleans-Caledonia district. Wheelock, Sheffield, Sutton, and Burke would form a new district; Albany, Craftsbury, Barton, Glover, and Greensboro form another. See the proposal map at: <https://bit.ly/3qm8ghA>

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

Federal ARPA monies for the Town of Wheelock presents both opportunities and challenges. Wheelock's total appropriation of \$246,912.91 will be dispersed in four payments over two years (next payments are in August and September 2022.) Very strict rules govern how these monies may be used, the timeline for using them, and the required reporting, so town officials are seeking technical guidance and participating in training sessions. The Vermont League of Cities and Towns is providing training and advice available through their website:

[American Rescue Plan Act | Vermont League of Cities and Towns \(vlct.org\)](https://www.vlct.org/American-Rescue-Plan-Act)

Potentially ARPA monies can be used in a variety of ways to address the town's many needs. The Selectboard is taking a measured approach in considering the town's options. Many Vermont towns have formed citizen advisory committees and/or engage with regional experts to assist their select boards with these deliberations.

Wheelock Town Hall Accessibility Project

Community feedback on the two design options is helping the **project committee*** develop a proposal required by the **U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)** to solve the Town Hall's lack of accessibility. During October, Wheelock residents weighed in with their ideas and preferences by using the comments boxes at the Wheelock Village Store and the Wheelock Town Hall or by responding on-line at: <http://placesense.com/wheelock/>

Their replies have been added to the comments from discussions with residents who turned out for the September 27 Town Hall community meeting where the project committee and technical consultants made presentations. A video recording of that meeting and related materials are still available for viewing at: <https://townofwheelockvt.org/> This high level of interest is providing important information for the project committee as they work to comply with all the DOJ requirements:

- 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**

Non-compliance with the agreement would leave the town open to a DOJ lawsuit, requiring a costly legal defense. It can also invite other plaintiffs to sue alleging discrimination entitling them to receive monetary damages. The lack of access will still need to be addressed, at greater expense with the cost of lawsuits and damages, and result in a final solution with little regard for residents' preferences.

*The Selectboard appointed the **Town Hall Accessibility Project Committee** in January 2021. Their charge is to assist the Selectboard in solving the Town Hall accessibility issues and manage a grants-funded project to develop architectural solutions and related information for the community. Committee members include: Steve Amos, Marc Brown, Eileen Boland, Enid Ellis, Ann Lawless, and Liz Muckerman.