

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



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

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY

- **TUESDAY Jan. 25, 5:00 pm**

SELECTBOARD

- * Monthly Meeting
TUESDAY Feb. 1, 6:00 pm

TOWN HALL ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT

- Committee Meeting
MONDAY Feb. 14, 6:00 pm

FOR ALL MEETINGS ABOVE

In Person: Wheelock Town Hall
 Masks/social distancing advised

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

TOWN MEETING REMOTE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Use Zoom/Phone Info Above

- **FRIDAY Feb. 25, 6:00 pm**
 (KATV is recording for YouTube)

Selectboard News and Notes

The Selectboard considered the Vermont Legislature’s decisions governing how 2022 town meetings may be held. Legislators approved modifications similar to those enacted in 2021. Under S. 172, towns are allowed to hold votes via Australian ballot or to postpone in-person meetings until warmer weather allows for outdoor gatherings. In addition, S.223, states filing petitions containing voters signatures are not required for candidates for local office. At their Jan. 18th meeting, Selectboard members voted to conduct **Town Meeting by Australian Ballot**, so all articles on the warning, including electing Town Officers, will be by Australian Ballot. Polls will be open at Town Hall, Tues., Mar. 1, from 10:00 am - 7:00 pm. A remote informational meeting will be held Fri., Feb. 25 at 6:00 pm. February’s *The Miller’s Run* newsletter will have more details about the informational meeting and Town Meeting.



Selectboard:
 Ann Lawless, Chair
 Jim Blackbird
 Michael Richardson

Elected Offices To Be Filled At Town Meeting

Candidates for the following positions simply file a Consent of Candidate form with the Town Clerk’s Office by **Monday, Jan. 24, 2022 at 5:00 PM**. Forms are available at the Town Clerk’s Office during office hours (open 1/24, 12-5), on the town website at <https://bit.ly/3LzVOKr>, or by emailing the Town Clerk at wheelocktown@gmail.com. (No petition signatures are necessary.)

- Town Moderator** – 1 Yr. Term
- Selectboard** – a 3 Yr. Term and a 1 Yr. Term (to finish a 3-Yr. Term)
- Lister** – a 3 Yr. Term and a 1 Yr. Term (to finish a 3-Yr. Term)
- Auditor** – 3 Yr. Term **Delinquent Tax Collector** – 1 Yr. Term
- First Constable** – 1 Yr. Term and a **Second Constable** – 1 Yr. Term

Town Clerk Vanessa Seguin

NEW Hours: Tues. 10:30-5:30; Wed./Thurs. 8:30-2:30
Email: wheelocktown@gmail.com
Phone: 802-626-9094
P. O. Box 1328, 1192 Route 122, Wheelock VT 05851



Wheelock ARPA Committee



Wheelock’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) appropriation (\$246,912.91) must be committed no later than 12/31/24 and expended no later than 12/31/26. Any funds not spent must be returned to the U.S. Treasury, which urges State and local governments "to engage their constituents and communities in developing plans" to use these funds. The Vermont League of Cities and Towns and other development groups are offering guidance to help citizen advisory committees work within the complex federal regulations. **The Wheelock Selectboard has formed an advisory ARPA Committee and welcomes citizen participation to help research and determine the best use for these funds.** Contact the Town Clerk’s office if you would like to participate.

Vermont Supreme Court Act 250 Decision

A recent decision by the court interprets Act 250 (Vermont’s land use law) differently from how it’s historically been applied. It would make it easier for commercial/industrial developers to construct projects in towns with weak or no existing land use regulations. In the Northeast Kingdom, 78% * of municipalities have only minimal or no zoning or subdivision regulations (Wheelock has none). Under this new interpretation, Act 250 would be triggered only if a developer used or “physically disturbed” an acre or more. The ruling by the five justices was unanimous. The court has reopened the decision for re-argument, however, and four parties are opposing the decision. * *Vt. Natural Resources Council*

Wheelock Town Hall Accessibility Project

The time for action is now!

At the 2022 Town Meeting the Selectboard is asking Wheelock voters to choose between the two options to address our Town Hall’s lack of accessibility. The Town Meeting Warning will have two articles, each asking voters to vote YES or NO on their preference for the two design options.



L to R:

Option 1
and
Option 2



This vote will help the Selectboard determine which option to further develop with additional design work and construction bid documents. Voters will receive a mailer to their homes about the options in advance of Town Meeting. It outlines design features, cost estimates, projected municipal loan costs, and property tax effects. More in-depth design information and a video of the design presentation community meeting (9/27/21) are available at <http://placesense.com/wheelock/>. All meeting agendas, minutes, and materials related to the Selectboard’s advisory committee’s work are at <https://townofwheelockvt.org/agendas-minutes/>

In Appreciation

Thanks are due to the many volunteers who help make our town a great place to live!



We are grateful to everyone who holds a public office, who attends Town Meeting and selectboard meetings, and have offered their time, knowledge, and skills in so many ways in 2021 and continuing into the new year.

- ✦ Serving on the Town Hall Accessibility Project Committee
- ✦ Joining the Cemetery Task Force and the teams who cleared brush at the West Wheelock cemetery and using preservation techniques for cleaning the headstones
- ✦ Rebuilding the Sulphur Springs pavilion
- ✦ Participating in the town garage clean up team
- ✦ Helping with safety issues, such as the window guards at Town Hall
- ✦ Decorating Town Hall for the holidays

There are many more residents whose work we also note, such as those who pick up litter on Green Up day and year round, assist in our schools, and contribute to and volunteer at the Sheffield Food Pantry (serves Wheelock residents). In these challenging times your efforts have made a big difference and are much appreciated!