

TOWN OF WHEELLOCK  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
May 20th 2025 6PM at Town Hall and Zoom

Call to Order 6PM

Present: Selectboard Members Ann Lawless, Mike Richardson, Chuck Dill. Residents Gretchen Blassinghame, Marty Thieret, with Enid Ellis, Teresa Stimpson And Tyler Harter on Zoom. Also in person: Town Clerk Erin Swigart and recorder Meaghan Rinehart.

Any changes to agenda:

Chuck has addition for trucks and roads. From Ann: Old business: MERP update, shutter. New business: concern; Letter of interest for a grant. Clerk/Treasurer: cell phone and PVR extension.

**ADOPT MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING(S)** Mike motions, seconded by Chuck to adopt minutes of 5/6/25 All in favor, so voted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**MERP updates**

There was a good turnout of 46 for Energy Fair.

The attic shutter was not included in original bid and is \$950.

Information about Wheelock eligibility for community solar will be added to next agenda.

**VEM Memorandum of Understanding re buyout 5697 S Wheelock Rd**

An updated form requires signing because VEM proposes a different funding source. Mike motions, seconded by Chuck to sign updated form. All in favor, so voted.

**Transfer Station Employee Policy**

Wheelock brought a draft policy to the table at the Jan. 2025 meeting, Sheffield Clerk transcribed it, and Sheffield Selectboard signed it. The policy was discussed and what the Selectboard thought was missing. Next meeting of both boards will be hosted by Wheelock in July (date TBD). Mike motions, seconded by Chuck to sign draft transfer station employee policy. Chuck and Mike nay, Ann for it. Motion fails.

**Bids to remove debris at rear of town hall building**

Three bids were opened:

\$6400 from P&L Riendeau

\$2222 from Jeff Masure

\$4500 from KR logging

The Selectboard was pleased with the bids and agreed they were all good options. Mike motions, seconded by Chuck to offer Jeff Masure the contract. All in favor, so voted.

**Report on conversation, David Mears of Tarrant, Gillies, Shem re Town Road Policy**

Ann reported on her conversation with attorney David Mears. Mr. Thieret asked if current class 4 road

policy was under review and asked about reclassifying roads. Ann reported that David thinks our class 4 road policy is fine. He said he thinks we are obligated to fix bridge, but there must be limits. There are constraints & obligations. State law seems inconsistent, and everyone (all class 4 roads) must be treated the same. He thinks the town would get deference from courts because the cost is likely too expensive for us. He thinks we would not be obligated by a court to fix it. He offered to put his into a formal legal opinion, but it may be better to wait for more information, since doing so would cost the town money.

Ann noted we received the hydraulics and hydrology study for the Welch Road bridge done by VTrans. It states that a bridge 18 feet long, 6 feet above the water level, and abutments 3 feet below grade will be required. Information from FEMA is still pending regarding whether the bridge on Welch Road is eligible for FEMA funding. Mr. Thieret asked if current class 4 road policy was under review and asked about reclassifying roads.

**Request by Meaghan Rinehart to use town hall grounds**

Resident was asked to submit formal proposal.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Concern from citizen re trash blowing from foreclosed property on Rt 122**

Mrs. Blessinghame wanted to make the Selectboard aware of the issues with a neighboring property. Debris consistently blows into her yard, She has made numerous attempts to contact the property management company listed and has been ignored. There is a concern for safety and she recently contacted state police to report that the door was recently broken into.

**David Tidhar asked the board (via email) to take action regarding children without helmets driving ATVs and motorbikes on Peak Rd.** An ATV entered his property. Ann will follow up and notify the local ATV club.

**Request from Wheelock Community Initiative to hold annual yard sale, town green, June**

**21.** Mike motions, seconded by Chuck to grant request. All in favor, so voted.

**Presentation by Liam Abbate, NVDA, re Act 181, future land use map of Caledonia County**

Liam Abbate and Alison Low from Northeastern Vermont Development Association, (NVDA) presented the new draft map which will be available to view at Town Hall. Alison explained that the purpose of Act 181 is to protect natural resources and expand village centers to enable more housing. Liam will forward an information packet. The main change is an expansion of the Wheelock Village Center designation both east and west of the existing. Liam said these maps will help and encourage community revitalization and facilitate access to grants.

**Request from VAST, Lyndon Sno Cruisers, for repairs on Piperville Rd.** Mike motions, seconded by Chuck to sign agreement. All in favor, so voted.

**CLERK/TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Purchase town clerk cell phone** Erin requested a cell phone to use for Town business purposes to avoid having to give out her personal number. There were several budget options. Chuck motions,

seconded by Mike to purchase a phone with a budget plan. All in favor, so voted.

A credit from the school district was received and will be returned to the General Fund.

Eileen Boland had asked if there was anything to be published in *Wheelock News*. Town reports are missing from the UVM archive for years 2013-2023.

**Request for extension for filing request for extension to PVR** Chuck motions, seconded by Mike, to sign a request for a 2 week extension for filing the grand list. All in favor, so voted.

### **ROADS**

Chuck reports that the '19 truck has holes in the sander floor and needs replacing. A bid request will be put out so bids can be in for the first June meeting. Ann motions, seconded by Mike to put out bid request for welding replacement of sanding floor.  
All in favor, so voted.

Roads are being graded with only a few left.

Resident requests a culvert on the class 3 part of Kenniston Hill Rd and is willing to pay for culvert if town will put in. Chuck will follow up.

### **Update 09 truck auction sale**

Pictures have been taken and lettering removed to prepare for truck for sale. Mike noted that that other items can be added to the lot. Chuck motions, seconded by Ann to add garage door to auction lot. All in favor, so voted.

New mower is ready for pick up.

There is a road grant available with a match from MRGPS

### **VTrans Grants-In-Aid letter of interest due May 23.**

Driveway permits update:

Ann sent a certified letter to Mr Hunter.

She will send a letter to make resident aware of policy regarding the need for a driveway permit because of a change in use

### **FEMA update**

Vt Hydraulics & Hydrology Study received for Welch Rd. bridge was discussed above with attorney agenda item.

Ann and Chuck had meeting with FEMA Site Inspectors and visited Boulay Rd. embankment, Minister Hill and Fall Brook bridges. Likely they will recommend a hydraulics and hydrology study at Fall Brook bridge.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Review and sign warrants** Chuck motions, seconded by Mike, to sign warrants. All in favor, so voted.

No visitor comments or correspondence.

**Adjourn** Mike motions, seconded by Chuck, to adjourn. All in favor, so voted. Meeting adjourned 9:09 PM.

Submitted by Meaghan Rinehart

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Ann Lawless, chair

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Mike Richardson

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Chuck Dill