

Town of Wheelock Selectboard, at Wheelock Town Hall
Emergency Meeting
July 23, 2025, 7:20pm
MINUTES

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss emergency measures following the closure of the Fall Brook Road bridge required by VTrans engineers for public safety, as a result of flooding on July 11, 2025.

Present: Shane Lanpher, Wheelock Emergency Officer; Selectboard members Chuck Dill, Mike Richardson (left at 7:30pm), Ann Lawless, Meaghan Rinehart

Ann opened the meeting at 7:20pm. She summarized that it has been difficult to block access to the bridge for public safety. Concrete barriers were moved aside to allow vehicles passage, then the barriers were removed, then a load of gravel the town had put in place was also removed.

“Bridge Closed” signs were put up on either side on Monday July 14. Traffic is still using the bridge.

Shane suggested that the town’s priority should be providing access to the residents and property owners on Fall Brook Rd. via the other end of the road from the bridge. This will require significant work on the road, including cutting brush and removing trees that have grown up.

This is a more useful, less risky, and less costly approach than trying to get the bridge removed with a crane. That approach would be expensive and not help the affected residents. All hope that once the residents have a safe way in and out, the illegal bridge traffic and vandalism/theft will stop.

Chuck has been lining up contractors to help with the emergency. Contracts will be necessary.

Erin has developed a list of residents and property owners with contact information so the town can notify them of the plans and updates. Ann will follow up with one non-resident landowner who has a log yard on his property to see if we can use it. She will contact our attorney to see if an agreement is necessary. She will contact PACIF to make sure our insurance can cover this.

Meeting adjourned by consensus, 7:45PM

Scribe, Ann

Signatures:

Ann Lawless, chair

Mike Richardson

Chuck Dill

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