

**WHEELOCK SELECTBOARD MEETING
APRIL 7TH, 2026, 6pm, WHEELOCK TOWN HALL
MINUTES**

Present in person: Wheelock Selectboard members: Ann Lawless and Chuck Dill. Norma Twombly, Greg Fields, Carol Rossi and Meaghan Rinehart (recorder). Via Zoom: Theresa Stimpson, Enid Ellis, Selectboard member Mike Richardson, Eileen Boland, Erin Swigart and Paul Hayes from The Caledonian Record.

6PM call to order. Changes to agenda: Add VTrans financial plan. Some may be tabled for further discussion when Mike is present in person.

ADOPT MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING(S)

Chuck motions, seconded by Ann to adopt minutes of 3/24/26. All present in favor, so voted. No nay or abstention.

Appoint NEK Broadband Board Representatives

Chuck motions, seconded by Ann to appoint Eileen Boland and David Stahler Jr to NEK Broadband Board. All present in favor, so voted. No nay or abstention.

Adopt VTrans Financial Plan

Chuck motions, seconded by Ann to adopt VTrans Financial Plan. All present in favor, so voted. No nay or abstention.

FY2026 Grants in Aid- Meeting and Approval

Chuck motions, seconded by Ann to move ahead with Municipal Grants in Aid. All present in favor, so voted. No nay or abstention.

BRIC Grants Letter of Intent

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program is an annual FEMA funding program for hazard mitigation. The program was previously rescinded by the Trump administration but now it is back. The letter of intent is due on 4/17. We will request funds for scoping work for Fall Brook Road Bridge. This is very competitive and it is not likely we will be invited to apply. Chuck motions, seconded by Ann, to submit a letter of intent. All present in favor, so voted. No nay or abstention.

Select Tree Clearing Bids

The work needed is part of the FEMA project for the 7/2024 disaster along S. Wheelock Rd. The clearing must be completed by 4/14/26 due to federal law regarding bat habitats. The following bids were received: P & L Riendeau, Wheelock, \$5,600

Timber and Earth Tree Care LLC, East Hardwick, \$17,880

Alexander Tree Service, Cabot, \$11,500

Jeff Masure, Wheelock \$4,900

The Selectboard accepted the Riendeau bid due to price and the fact that he included public safety in his plans. Chuck motions, seconded by Ann to accept bid from P & L Riendeau for tree cutting services. All present in favor, so voted. No nay or abstention.

Select bid for Hydrology and Resilience (CDBG Grant)

Ann followed up with bidders with questions raised at last meeting. Fitzgerald Engineering maintained its bid of \$56,000 for engineering, even if we do not accept their \$4,000 bid for Project Management. Fitzgerald is happy to work with Emily Finnegan from Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District (CCNRCD) for project management and grant administration (\$3,300). These awards are pending CDBG funding. Chuck motions, seconded by Ann, to hire Fitzgerald for engineering and CCNRCD for project management and grant administration. All those present in favor, so voted. No nay or abstention.

Small Grants for Smart Growth

We were not approved. Request was for food at community meeting for Hydrology and Engineering project (CDBG grant pending).

In other grants, Ann submitted the VTrans Structures grant for Minister Hill Bridge due 4/15.

FEMA Updates

There was no FEMA meeting as DHS is not fully functioning at this time. The backhoe invoice has been submitted and we heard that the payment for donated resources (Scott Lange's project management time) will likely be paid out.

MERP Town Hall Updates

Carol Rossi did some research and found written results of asbestos tests performed on basement sheetrock in 1993 and again in 2014. A trace amount was found in 1993 and none in 2014. Ann did more research. The issue was tabled.

Carol graciously volunteered to administer some small projects for Town Hall maintenance such as basement windows and doors, and install the Pomeroy Foundation historic marker (in a box on

the stage). She would like to have a meeting with the fire marshal. Chuck motioned, seconded by Ann to allow Carol to get basement windows, replace doors, and set the historic marker. All those present in favor, so voted. No nay or abstention.

Roads Update

Muddy spots and potholes are everywhere, the crew has been cleaning and getting the shop in order until it's time to fix roads.

Loss Control Reports

Erin with Carol's help prepared a binder with the Materials Safety Data Sheets. Hazmat training and PPE are still pending.

CORRESPONDENCE

The town of Sheffield submitted a list of what they will charge to assist in fixing roads in Wheelock.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Norma Twombly gave out handouts on the Kingdom East School District budget revote coming up April 28. She encouraged residents to cast a ballot. Discussion regarding state vs local funding and taxes was had.

Chuck motions, seconded by Ann to complete the administrative portion of the meeting (sign documents) and adjourn. All present in favor, so voted. No nay or abstention.

Meeting adjourned 7:11pm.

Submitted by Meaghan Rinehart

Ann Lawless

Mike Richardson

Chuck Dill