

THE BRIDGER

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society Newsletter – December 2024

Mark Maddox, Editor



From the Editor

Welcome to edition 99 of *The Bridger*. I find it hard to believe we are at the end of the year! This edition will be packed full of information and longer than normal. We'll recap our Fall meeting as well as include information on additional meetings the board has had, as well as events we've been to. The director's spotlight will highlight President Joe Nelson, we'll talk about a birthday celebration coming up and our usual bridge watch segment. Also, we note the passing of one of our life members. So, keep reading for these stories as well as others to see what is happening.

A special thanks to all of our volunteers who work to promote the preservation of our covered bridges. We appreciate all of our members for their contributions.

As always, If there are items you'd like to see in *The Bridger* or interesting tidbits you hear about regarding any of our bridges I'd be glad to hear from you.

Wishing all of you a very happy holiday season and hope you, your family and friends enjoy the season.

Cheers!

Mark Maddox

(marmad40@gmail.com)

Election of Officers

- By Mark Maddox

Effective January 1, 2025, the following officers will be installed for a period of 2 years: Beth Brown Limmer – President, Steve Miyamoto – Vice-President, Dan

Monger - Treasurer, and Mark Maddox - Secretary. Joe Nelson will be awarded title of President Emeritus.

Vice President's Report

- by Steve Miyamoto

I am writing my Vice President report for this newsletter in honor of Joe Nelson.

Joe Nelson has been involved in the VCBS since its inception in 2000. Along with Liam McKone and Ed Barna, Joe was a part of the triumvirate that worked to lay the groundwork for the society as it exists today.

During his years of service to the society, Joe has done every task and held every office and position in the society.

Sometimes it seemed that Joe was the lone voice keeping the society alive. During the thriving times and the lean times, Joe has always kept an even keel and worked with anyone and everyone who was available.

Joe has always been welcoming to newcomers and has been very encouraging to everyone he has worked with.

President: Joe Nelson, P.O. Box 267, Jericho, VT 05465, email: jcarlnelson@yahoo.com

Vice President: Steve Miyamoto, 8 Ridge Rd., Essex Junction, VT 05452, email: spmiyamoto@comcast.net

Secretary: Mark Maddox, PO Box 296, Saxtons River, VT 05154, email: marmad40@gmail.com

Treasurer: Dan Monger, 26 Lake St., Tunkhannock, PA 18657-7128, email: teelmonger@ptd.net

I met Joe back in early 2001 when I volunteered to be an assistant staff writer for *The Bridger* newsletter. Joe was great to work with even back then. In 2003 I took on the task of newsletter editor and learned a lot from Joe about constructing and editing the newsletter. He freely shared his knowledge with me for the next three years as I continued as the newsletter editor. During that time Joe shared the website responsibilities with me on the original .com website.

I cannot say enough good things about Joe. He has been a friend and a mentor to me as I've learned about covered bridges.

His contributions to Vermont's covered bridges and the Vermont Covered Bridge Society are too many to mention without leaving something out.

Thank you, Joe, for your huge contribution to Vermont's covered bridges and your guidance of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society in its first 25 years.

We will all miss you and your leadership. Best wishes as you move forward,

Steve

Spanning Time Addendum: There is an addendum now available to *Spanning Time – Vermont's Covered Bridges* by Joe Nelson. This 36-page addendum follows the layout and provides updates to the contents of Joe's 1997 book. New information has been added and lost bridges have been deleted.

At this point it is available as a PDF file by request. Send your request by email to vermontcoveredbridgesociety@gmail.com with the subject of Spanning Time Addendum. We are in the process of deciding how to make this available. The options are digital download, print brochure, or both.

The VCBS website is in the process of adding a new feature: a Combined Covered Bridges tour. Over the years there have been questions about bridges not being found on our covered map. These are typically the non-traditional or "romantic shelter" bridges. To solve this dilemma, I am working on a new project that will merge all the covered bridge types into a combined tour. This

will hopefully answer questions that have come up in the past.

The project is organized by county. So far it is complete from Addison to Essex counties. I expect to have it completed early in 2025. The link to the feature is: [Combined Covered Bridges](#)

We are grateful to Dale J. Travis for permission to use the information for the non-traditional bridges. Dale's website is a complete reference for all things covered bridges. Dale's website is called [Round Barns and Covered Bridges](#).

The **Historical Committee** has received several contributions over the past few months. Thanks to the individuals who have contributed these valuable items. We welcome any contributions or collections of covered bridge material for our archive collection. We will begin processing this material in the coming year.

If you would like to join the historical committee, please send an email to vermontcoveredbridgesociety@gmail.com. We welcome anyone who has an interest in helping with this project.

The Covered Bridge Museum: The following information was provided by Don Trachte: The covered bridge museum in Bennington, Vt that was built by Bruce Leomeister is now called the "Monument Arts and Cultural Center". It is located at 44 Gypsy Lane in Bennington. The old covered bridge museum was disassembled and most of the material and information were piled in a room in one of the four exhibit spaces that we have in the main building. Last year, Don reached out to several of the local artists and they have loaned the museum over 20 beautiful paintings. They have also used what they could of the old museum and brought it up-to-date.



You can find more information at the museum's website:

[Monument Arts Cultural Center](#)

Events Committee/Fundraising Committee

- by Beth Brown Limmer, Chair/Acting Chair

Since the September newsletter, a few things have happened. So, let's review.

On Saturday, September 14, Paul and I loaded up and went to Proctorsville to the 12th Annual Golden Honey Festival. It was 84 degrees, and we took a sweat, but that little festival (just 35 vendors and 5-6 were food) brings folks out! After all expenses (including the \$40 vendor fee), our net gain for the day was \$269.40.

On Saturday and Sunday, September 22 & 23, we were at Chester Festival once again, our second year there. Many helping hands were needed. Thanks go to Mark Maddox, Barbara and Scott Scribner, and Marcel and Jeanne Beaudry. Paul and I were lifted along very strongly by this crew. Net gain to VCBS after expenses: \$1,073.40. This involves 3 trips to Chester (Fri set up) but is definitely well worth the \$50 vendor fee and effort put in. The Chester Festival is always the third weekend of September. Mark your calendars for 2025!

Saturday, September 28, 2024, found VCBS members at the Warren Town Hall for our Fall Meeting. John Knox captured a fabulous photo of the group! Total expenses: \$378.00. Income from lunch donations, merch sales, and the teacup auction: \$409.00. Members were afforded the opportunity to order T-shirts with the VCBS 25th year logo. These were mailed in early November (37 sold), and I hope to see many being worn at the Spring 2025 VCBS Meeting!



VCBS Members at Warren mtg - photo by John Knox

The Pittsford Craft Show was Sat. Nov 23, our third year attending this. Many thanks to Dan and Diane Sullivan and Scott and Barbara Scribner for helping me with this one. (My right-hand man, Paul, was in sick bay that day). Net after expenses: \$373.71 for a 5-hour craft show. The biggest seller being 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle featuring 6 Vermont covered bridges. (Yes, you can get one at Spring Meeting!)



Dan & Diane Sullivan volunteering at Pittsford Winter Craft show – Photo by Paul Limmer

So, when and where is next meeting?

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Main Street Arts, Saxtons River, VT

Meet and greet: 10:00 - 10:30

Business meeting: 10:30 - 11:45

Lunch 12- 1

Speaker / Program: 1:00

Caravan to Hall, Bartonsville, Worrall CBs:

2:30 ish

The February newsletter will have more details about the fun and frivolity being planned for June 7! Plan to come! You'll be glad you did!

Before 2024 "sales season" ends, Scott and Barbara Scribner are manning the VCBS booth on Fri. Dec. 6 at Brandon Town Hall. Moonlight Madness is from 4-8 pm. This is likely the last chance to buy a VCBS 2025

calendar. Supplies are less than 15 currently, and that includes stock for online store. It's been a great fundraising tool for VCBS these last 3 years!

In closing, I wish you and yours a very happy holiday season! Thank you for your support of VCBS in 2024! We are headed for a banner year in 2025 as we celebrate

our 25th anniversary!

Snow the bridges!

Beth Brown Limmer

Events Committee Chair

Fundraising Committee Acting Chair

Education Committee

- by Jeanne Beaudry, Chair

Presentation at Derby Library

On Saturday October 13th, Marcel and Jeanne made a presentation at the Dailey Memorial Library in Derby. Sixteen people were in attendance. Two books



were donated to the library to continue the interest in Vermont's Covered Bridges.

Halloween Haunted Bridge

On October 31st, at the Craftsbury Trunk and Treat Event, Marcel's bridge was transformed into a haunted covered bridge. Many comments were made by visitors, and we provided information about Vermont's Covered Bridges and the Society.



Membership Committee

- by Scott Scribner – Chair

As the year comes to a conclusion, I would like to thank all of our members and give a quick update on our total numbers. I met a lot of new folks while attending numerous fairs around the state. I have said many times that this is my favorite way to get new members. I also wanted to take a quick minute to ask you all to take a minute and think if there is anyone that would appreciate a membership as a gift? Make sure you check out our website and sign up a friend or family member to the society. Hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

By the numbers – 2024

254 Total Memberships, consisting of approximately 340 individuals

Students – 7

Individuals – 134

Couples/Families – 96

Business/Organizations – 7

Charter or Honorary – 10

Total of 83 Lifetime Memberships included in the above.

Publicity Committee

- by Mark Maddox

We've had several great opportunities in the last few months to publicize the work the Vermont Covered Bridge Society does.

In October, Beth Brown Limmer and I sat for a taping of "Across the Fence". This is a daily 15-minute television program co-produced by University of Vermont Extension and WCAX-TV Channel 3. We were interviewed by Joleil Whitney regarding our involvement in the VCBS and what the VCBS does to help save Vermont's Covered Bridges. The original segment aired on 11-6-24. It is available for viewing at the following location: [Across the Fence](#)

In November, Beth Brown Limmer, Scott Scribner and I also sat for a video/podcast taping on Okemo Valley TV. Again, discussing the VCBS and what we are doing to help preserve Vermont's Covered Bridges. This 30-minute segment will be available on PBS stations throughout Vermont as well as at the following location: [Discovering Vermont Covered Bridge Society](#)

Finally, on December 3rd, I spoke to a lunch group at Main Street Arts in Saxtons River regarding Vermont's Covered Bridges. It was an enjoyable session where I learned a thing or two from the group as well as providing information on Covered Bridge construction, the builders and a virtual tour of the local covered bridges.

Bridge Watch/Bridges in the news

Henry Covered Bridge – reported by Life Member Tom Carpenter

"I was in Bennington VT yesterday (11-15-24) to check out the three bridges there. When I got to the Henry Bridge (VT-45-02-02#2) I was unable to cross the bridge. Three workers were laying down a new floor using 2X8 pressure treated boards. They were in the process of laying down the boards to cover the complete floor from side to side and end to end. I thought I would let you know about this for "The Bridger" "Bridge Watch/Bridges in the news" should you want to make other members aware of this."

Halls Covered Bridge – Rockingham, Gorham and Depot Covered Bridges - Pittsford & Proctor

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society has offered to provide fire retardant to these 3 bridges with a grant from the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges. The towns have not responded to the offer at this time

Sanderson Covered Bridge – Brandon

The Sanderson Covered Bridge was unfortunately struck twice during the last couple of months. The first time was on 10-4-24 when the bridge was struck by an 18-wheeler. The vehicle was found to be about 20,000

pounds overweight and had other equipment deficiencies. The driver from Ontario Canada was ticketed. The bridge was temporarily closed while our Bridge Watch Committee Chairman, Miles Jenness, went to assess the damage. He is a big timber specialist and has worked on many covered bridges. Miles was able to determine that the Sanderson Covered Bridge could be safely reopened to traffic. The quote for repairs was \$24,500.



Sanderson damage 10-4-24 Photo Courtesy Paul Limmer

On November 26, 2024, the Sanderson Covered Bridge was hit again, this time on the opposite portal. The driver left the scene, ran over a mailbox, and forced an off-duty firefighter and his 2 children off the road. Police were able to catch up with the driver from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania who was arrested, and cited for one count of negligent vehicle operation and two counts of leaving the scene of a crash with property damage resulting. He was also issued tickets for driving over a bridge weight limit and failure to obey traffic devices. According to police, “there were five signs there, and he just drove straight by them. He just disregarded all of them and struck the bridge.” The truck was 2 feet taller than the covered bridge’s clearance causing damage to the bridge’s roof and its supports. Damages for this second hit were estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000. The bridge is currently passable.

Taftsville Covered Bridge – Woodstock

Reported by Reddit user No_Hippo_1425 on 11-3-24

A flat bed tow truck with full sized camper van on it clipped the front of the bridge and dragged the van across every beam.



Photo by Reddit User No_Hippo_1425

Waitsfield (Great Eddy) Covered Bridge - Waitsfield

On November 19, 2024 a driver thought he could fit through the Waitsfield Covered Bridge even though the

truck was 2 feet tall than the covered bridge’s clearance. The result was damage to the bridge’s roof and its supports. The truck also exceeded the 3-ton weight limit on the bridge.



Truck stuck at a covered bridge in Waitsfield, Vt. – Photo courtesy Miles Jenness

Miles Jenness has put together a proposal to fix the damage the truck caused as well as address some prior issues.

Miller’s Run Covered Bridge - Lyndonville

Progress is being made on the Miller’s Run Covered Bridge in Lyndonville. Foundations for the 2 metal headache bars on either side of the bridge entrance have been poured and are awaiting installation of the steel barriers for this \$40,000 project.



Jeanne Beaudry surveying new footings for steel beams at Millers Run CB - photo by Marcel Beaudry

Directors Spotlight

- By Mark Maddox

For the newsletter, I wanted to add a director's spotlight so members who haven't yet met our board would have a chance to get to know a little about them. In this edition, I'm pleased to bring you Joe Nelson, current President of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society.



Joe Nelson signing his book *Spanning Time* – photo by Mark Maddox

I met with Joe on a sunny Friday at his home in Underhill Vermont accompanied by Beth Brown Limmer. I had only met Joe a couple of other times so this was also an opportunity to get to know him a little more. Over the span of a couple of hours, I was able to worm some details out of his life.

Joe was born in Beacon, New York and subsequently grew up in Poughkeepsie. As a youth, Joe would work at his uncle's dairy farm building his muscles throwing bales of hay. In addition to farming, Joe's uncle also used to train boxers and gave Joe a few tips. In Poughkeepsie, Joe was a newcomer and taunted by the other boys. After one of the boys' older brothers tried to bully him, Joe took a punch in the head, looked the bully in the eyes and took him out with a single punch. He was left alone after that.

As a youth, Joe also sailed the Hudson River on a Friendship Sloop that he and his friends rescued and restored from under a farmer's porch. Joe told me stories of camping on the river from the sloop and running the waves to beat it through an extremely narrow opening into an inner waterway off the river. His friends were equally amazed when he undauntedly took them back through the opening out into the river.

This perseverance worked well for Joe. After graduating from college, Joe went to work for IBM, where he climbed the corporate ladder, transferred to Essex Junction in Vermont and then retired after putting in 31 years.

After working 12-14 hours a day in the office, Joe realized he didn't really know who his neighbors were or even much about his new home state of Vermont. So, he and his wife Ruth decided to explore the towns of Vermont. That is where he discovered covered bridges.

It was at the Gates Farm Covered Bridge where Joe really got into the nuts and bolts of covered bridges. This small bridge at Cambridge Junction had been moved from route 15 to a new location at Gates Farm and needed extensive repair work. Joe spent many days tagging along with the Blow and Cote crew who were working on the bridge and talking with them during lunch to learn how the covered bridges were built. He asked tons of questions that he used to get information for his book *Spanning Time – Vermont's Covered Bridges*. He said it helped that he wore his construction costume consisting of helmet, hard-toed shoes and jacket to fit in with the crew.

To round off his book, Joe spent about a year diving into the stacks of information in the library at Montpelier. The State of Vermont had asked historians to write the history of the towns of Vermont and Joe devoured that information focusing on the towns with covered bridges. If you read *Spanning Time*, you'll find evidence of this with some of the stories he included such as "Ann Story's Cave", "Joe's Pond" and "Ethan Allen and the Guilford Yorkers" just to name a few. In 2000, Bill "Liam" McKone approached some of the living authors of covered bridge books, including Joe and Ed Barna, to help save the big bridge at Cambridge

Junction. Through their work, and along with others such as Terry Shaw, the bridge was saved, and the Vermont Covered Bridge Society came into existence. Joe was instrumental in creating the constitution and the bylaws for the society, providing organization and served multiple roles through the last 24+ years in the society including newsletter editor and President.

When asked if he had a favorite covered bridge, his reply was the Salisbury Station also known as the Cedar Swamp. This Town lattice truss bridge, built in 1864-1865, was destroyed by fire in September of 2016. Hopefully, it will be rebuilt as Joe remembers.

I asked Joe what he would like to say to members and prospective members of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society. His response was to think about why the bridges are there. Why are they where they are? Do you understand the role the covered bridges played –

their importance and history in the growth of the State of Vermont? If you look around the bridges, you will see the ruins of the industry that the bridges were built to support. That is the history that we in the Society are working to save.

Joe will be stepping down as the President of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society at the end of the year. But that doesn't mean he is going to be idle. He has 4 books ready to go to the publishers with other ideas in the offing.

Thanks, Joe, for all you've done for the Vermont Covered Bridge Society and for helping save Vermont's remaining covered bridges. I had a great time talking with him and listening to his stories and hope to hear more from him.

In Memoriam

Robert E Kane, Jr – 6/28/48 – 11/20/24 – Lifetime member VCBS



From Bill & Jenn Caswell on 11-22-24:

"I have some sad news to share.

Our long-time friend Bob Kane passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday evening. It was such a shock since we just saw him at the

NY State Covered Bridge Society's dinner meeting a few days ago.

We first met Bob & Trish over 20 years ago when we started Covered Spans of Yesteryear and have been friends ever since. The two of them were inseparable. They worked on every task as a couple.

Bob was always there working in the background to help with any project that they took on. When they were inspired to create the Burr Resource Center he was always there to do whatever was needed to help make it successful.

Bob was such a kind soul and his passing is a huge loss to the covered bridge community."

Bob's obituary can be found here: [Robert E. Kane, Jr. Obituary](#)

Bob was Trish Kane's husband. Trish was very active in the early days of the VCBS as the Membership Chair. Trish now heads the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Research Center in Oxford, NY. We offer our sincere and heartfelt condolences to Trish in this difficult time.

New Contact Information for Trish Kane, Collections Curator, Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center

New email, effective immediately: tskane68@gmail.com

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for a very special 200th celebration of the Hyde Hall covered bridge, the oldest covered bridge standing in the U.S. and located in Glimmerglass State Park near Cooperstown, NY. The date is Saturday,



Hyde Hall Covered Bridge - Wikipedia

October 11, 2025, 10-4 pm. This will be a family event, with everyone invited to attend. Watch for more information as plans develop.

Please note: If you plan on camping at Glimmerglass that weekend, reservations can be made up to nine months in advance. Campsites fill up fast so make your reservations early

at: www.reserveamerica.com and/or call Reserve America at (800) 456-2267.

VCBS Annual Fall Meeting

Minutes prepared by Mark Maddox

Our annual Fall meeting was held in Warren, VT on September 28, 2024. There were 19 individuals in attendance from VT, NH, MD, NJ & TX. Beth Brown Limmer presented a framed poster signed by attendees of the Kingsley Covered Bridge opening to Bob Underhill of the Clarendon Historical Society

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Vice-President Steve Miyamoto at 10:43am.

II. Officer's Reports

MINUTES

Minutes from the June 8, 2024 meeting had been previously distributed so they were not read out to the attendees. Copies were also available for review. Motion to approve and seconded June 8, 2024 meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Treasure Dan Monger was not in attendance but submitted his report.

- Highlights of the report were read out by Secretary Mark Maddox.
- Beth mentioned that there is \$450 that is not reflected in the report due to calendars that Liam has sold.
- Motion to approve and seconded with that caveat.

VCBS TREASURER REPORT: 01/01/2024 – 09/25/2024

INCOME:

Donations

\$1,797.00

Dues

\$1,152.00

Sales (Books, Caps, Decals, Misc.)

\$2,233.08

Sales (2025 Calendars)	
<u>\$4,748.56</u>	
TOTAL INCOME	
\$9,930.64	
EXPENSES:	
Board of Directors	
\$0.00	
Office Administration	
<u></u>	
P.O. Box Rental	
\$50.00	
Postage/Printing	
\$0.00	
Website (Software/Domain)	
\$243.24	
Insurance	
<u>\$487.07</u>	
Total Office Administration	
\$780.31	
Bridge Watch Committee	
\$0.00	
Legislation Watch Committee	
\$0.00	
Historical Committee (Storage)	
\$971.10	
Communications Committee	
Postage	
\$200.00	
Printing	
<u>\$933.20</u>	
Total Communications Committee	
\$1,133.20	
Publicity Committee (brochures/mailings)	
\$643.23	
Membership Committee	
Postage/Printing	
\$0.00	
Purchases	
<u>\$25.42</u>	
Total Membership Committee	
\$25.42	
Events Committee	
Venues	
\$764.00	

Purchases (Miscellaneous)	
\$170.00	
Meetings Expenses	
\$574.83	
Stamps/Shipping	
<u>\$15.47</u>	
Total Events Committee	
\$1,524.30	
Fund Raising Committee	
Purchases	
\$1,291.75	
Mailings	
\$303.62	
Commissioned Items Sales	
\$359.00	
Calendar expenses	
<u>\$1,635.00</u>	
Total Fund Raising Committee	
\$3,469.37	
Education Committee	
\$122.52	
TOTAL EXPENSES	
\$8,669.45	
NET GAIN	
<u>\$1,261.19</u>	
Union Bank Checking Account Balance	
01/01/2024 = \$23,600.41	
Union Bank Checking Account Balance	
09/25/2024 = \$24,861.60	
Cash banking account, no fees charged. VCBS is	
a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization.	

President/Vice-President report

Presented by Steve Miyamoto, Vice-President

- Update on Joe – Joe is getting around the house with the use of a walker. He isn't getting out a great deal however he was able to do a small covered bridge tour with his daughter. It is hard for him to sit so he could not make it to the meeting.
- Joe will not be running for President next term

- VP update – Steve is keeping things going while Joe is unable to do things

III. Committee Reports

Bridge Watch Committee

Chair Miles Jenness was unable to attend

- Steve gave an update on the Cambridge Junction Bridge from the September 19th edition of the Mountain Gazette.
 - Permits have delayed work
 - Abutments need to be fixed, but open to pedestrians
 - Marcel brought pictures of the work that is being done.
 - Downriver side of the bridge is being worked on
- Steve Brown mentioned tree damage to the Scott Covered bridge that was noticed last week.
- Beth reported on the River Road bridge in Troy that was burned in February 2021. Federal government will fund 100%.
 - Steve read a comment that the bridge will be replaced as a Covered Bridge.
- Salisbury Station Bridge is not currently on the list of bridges to be rebuilt. It was lost in 2016. The public wants it replaced with an authentic covered bridge.
- Millers Run Bridge - concrete being installed for the headache bar.
- Judy reported on visiting the Montgomery bridges. She was unable to reach the Hutchins Covered Bridge due to a tree blocking the road on the only way in. (Note: Mark visited the Hutchins Covered Bridge on 9-29 and the tree had been cleared)
- The group discussed the cost of rebuilding a covered bridge vs constructing a modern bridge. Though not completely certain the feeling is the costs are comparable.

Communications Committee

Presented Acting Chair Steve Miyamoto

- Newsletter mailing list has been updated
 - Still some issues with members not getting copies – investigating
- Website has some broken links – Steve investigating

Events and Fundraising Committee

Report submitted by Beth Brown Limmer, Event Committee Chair and Fundraising Committee Acting Chair

- On the heels of the September issue of The Bridger, in which the news of our activities from Spring 2024 Meeting until late August was shared, came the busy month of September.
 - On Sat. September 14, 2024, VCBS had a booth at the 12th annual Golden Honey Festival in Proctorsville, VT. This was held on the grounds of the Golden Stage Inn on an 84 degree day! Paul and I were busy from 9 to 4 and net gain to VCBS was \$269.40. The \$40 vendor fee was a bit high, I thought, for a one day event, but the owners of the inn donate all vendor fees to a local community group doing great things in that little town. So it's all good.
 - The following week, Sept 21 & 22, found us at Chester Festival for the second year. As you may recall, this was a hugely successful selling event for VCBS in 2023. This year surpassed last year in several aspects:
 - MUCH more help (Thanks to Mark Maddox, Scott and Barbara Scribner, Jeanne and Marcel Beaudry, and Paul Limmer),
 - Better net gain than 2023 (i.e.\$1,073.43),
 - Two new couples, 1 individual, and 1 life individual members were gained.
 - Win – win – win! The weather was perfect and the crowd was massive both days. This is a “must-do” event in 2025.
 - So, what's next? Well, the meeting in Warren on 9/28/24. I have a Teacup Raffle organized. Raffle tickets (\$1.00 each) will be sold and the proceeds used to defray the cost of the meeting venue. I thank you for your donations towards lunch / meeting costs. This formula of free-will donations and either a Silent Auction or Raffle works! The Spring Meeting in Charlotte on 6/8/24 was entirely covered, including the \$75 donation made to Charlotte 4-H, except for \$30.00. My EC budget and I extend deep gratitude to you, the meeting attendees.
 - We have a few more sales events on tap before the year ends. There is an Air Stream rally in Brandon this weekend. The Scribners will take a few items of VCBS merchandise, including the

- newly acquired (as in on 9/26!) jigsaw puzzle featuring Vermont covered bridges.
- The Pittsford Craft Fair (to benefit Pittsford Christmas Child Fund) will be held Sat. Nov 23 at Lothrop School. This is our third year as vendor there.
- Then, lastly, Moonlight Madness is happening again in Brandon in early December. Last year was the first year for us, and Barbara Scribner captured a spot in Brandon Town Hall at the very last moment.
- You may wonder what all our fairs, festivals, and farmers market appearances have netted thus far in 2024. If you don't, then stop reading. But if you do want to know, by my figures, VCBS is \$2,521.61 richer than we were at the 6/8/24 Spring Meeting. This is from person-to-person sales at events only. It does not include calendar sales
 - outside of events or sales from the online store / marketplace.
- Looking ahead, the venue for the Spring 2025 Meeting has been reserved. It will be at Main Street Arts Building on Main Street in Saxtons River. Save the date: Saturday, June 7, 2025!
- Display will be added to Fairhaven welcome center starting Oct 1.
- On Fundraising, Beth keeping track of what is profitable
 - no vendor fees for the Arlington Farmers market or Bristol Farmers Market. However, people are not looking for merchandise from the VCBS at these venues so won't do them next year.
 - May not do Jeffersonville 4th of July next year.
 - Chester festival very profitable.

Historical Committee

Presented by Steve Miyamoto

- VCBS continues to receive donations of bridge items

Legislative Committee

- No report

Membership Committee

Presented by Chair Scott Scribner

- The Best of Vermont festival added 6 new members
- So far in 2024 there have been 42 new members added

- 26 individuals
- 15 couples
- 1 Business
- These figures include 3 lifetime members
- Total membership of 246

Publicity Committee/Speakers Bureau

Chair Liam McKone – unable to attend

- Liam is looking forward to the 25th anniversary celebration

Education Committee

Presented by Chair Jeanne Beaudry

- Remember that the Education Committee is to educate students of various ages, including adults.
- Brandon Museum and Visitor Center:
 - In July, a covered bridge display was put in place by Scott Scribner.
 - On July 13th, Jeanne and Marcel did a covered bridge presentation.
 - This display was supposed to be in the museum until the end of July.
 - Will remain until the end of September to allow for an Airstream caravan (Northeast Mountaineers Club) to view when in town September 27-29.
- On October 13th, Jeanne and Marcel will do a presentation at the Dailey Memorial Library in Derby.
- Will work on contacting and visiting schools now that they are back in session.
- Will work with Maureen, Kevin, Joe and Sally on plans to include 4-H involvement.

IV. Old Business

- 25th anniversary celebration – will discuss in this afternoon's session
- Covered Bridge ½ Marathon – Beth will look into
 - State inspects bridges every 2 years that are part of the road system.
 - Other bridges do not have an inspection program.
- No conflict of interest being on the VCBS Board as well as running a restoration company.
- He mentioned that there are carpenters in Europe that would be interested in working on Covered Bridges in the US and welcomes any ideas

V. New Business

- Mailing Address – decided to stay with Jeffersonville for the legal address. Phase out Jerico address. Steve will get the Jeffersonville key and send to Peter Chapin to monitor the PO box every other week.
- Bill Caswell – reported that next year the Hyde Hall bridge in NY will be 200 years old
 - Oldest covered bridge in the US.
 - Near Cooperstown NY
 - Will have celebration October 11th & 12th, 2025
- Bob Underhill of the Clarendon Historical Society discussed the date issue of the Kingsley Covered bridge.
 - The north side has a sign erected by the state showing built in 1870
 - The south side has a sign showing built in 1836
 - Documentation shows that a bridge collapsed in that site in 1836 killing one person.
 - Workers doing the just completed restoration believe the bridge is older than 1870.
 - Bob has done research and found that records do not show a bridge construction during the 1870-time frame (+/- 5 years). Bob believes that the bridge is older than 1870.
- Afternoon bridge caravan will visit the Warren, Waitsfield and Pine Brook Covered Bridges.
- National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges annual meeting will be held in North Grafton, MA on October 26, 2024.
- Beth reviewed the merchandise that was for sale.

VI. Meeting adjourned by Steve at 12:00

Afternoon session

- Miles arrived and presented the work he has been doing on restoring covered bridges in Vermont. He also showed some of the projects he has been working on out of the country.



Mile Jenness discussing Sandborn CB project

- Beth discussed the VCBS 25th anniversary plans
 - 4 projects in the works
 - T-shirts
 - Found vendor in Wells VT to do the screen printing
 - Steve came up with graphic design for it



- Taking pre-paid orders - \$20 - \$25 per shirt for VCBS members
 - Steve will send out email to members so those who did not attend can purchase them
 - Members will notify Mark by sending checks or contacting him for credit card sales
- Dark green shirts
 - Travel journals

- Bridges in VT divided into 4 regions, 20 to 25 bridges in each journal for the region, one for the whole state
- Roll out in the spring
- Covered bridge model building contest
 - Roll out in the spring
 - One contest may be cake building (in shape of bridges), another may be building scale bridge models
- Proclamation - recognition from state on 25 years
 - Statement reviewed by Beth
 - *Whereas*, the State of Vermont has more covered bridges per square mile than any other U.S. State, and,
 - *Whereas*, there were once more than 500 covered bridges in Vermont but less than 1/5 that number remain, and,
 - *Whereas*, floods, fires, and the passage of time have claimed many of these iconic structures, the Vermont Covered Bridge Society was founded in 2000 and adopted as its mission the preservation of the covered bridges in Vermont that remain, and,
 - *Whereas*, the Vermont Covered Bridge Society has grown from its inception by a handful of Vermonters to a membership of over 300 bridge enthusiasts from the United States and Canada, and,
 - *Whereas*, VCBS will celebrate its 25th anniversary as a non-profit organization in Vermont in 2025 and is manned solely by volunteers, and,
- *Whereas*, a relationship of cooperation and collaboration with Vermont State agencies, especially the Agency of Transportation, has been built, and,
- *Whereas*, residents and tourists consider covered bridges to be an important part of the tapestry of Vermont culture,
- *Let it now be proclaimed*, the first Saturday of August of each year will be recognized as Vermont Covered Bridge Day, and feted as such, and,
- *Furthermore*, celebrations of Vermont Covered Bridge Society's 25th anniversary will take place throughout Vermont during 2025, and include displays of covered bridge models, photography, and art within State buildings and highway rest areas.
- Beth to submit to the government offices in the next couple of weeks
- Aiming for August 1st date. Start with celebration at the Cambridge covered bridge and maybe have some satellite celebrations
- Publicity - Beth
 - WCAX – Across the Fence program
 - Beth asked to be a part of this program
 - Taping October 22nd
 - Okemo Valley TV
 - Doing a Podcast in November

VCBS Special Board of Directors Meeting 11-21-24

Minutes prepared by Mark Maddox

Meeting called to order by Bill Caswell at 6:34 pm

New Business:

Item 1: 25th projects and budget needed for same – Beth Brown Limmer

Beth reviewed projects that are underway.

1. Proclamation for Vermont Covered Bridge Day
 - a. Hoping for first Saturday in August

- i. Partner with Audi Rally at Stowe
- b. Date set in January
 - i. Will plan on where to have celebrations such as in Cambridge area
 - ii. Would like to find sponsors in the area for 25th celebrations
 - iii. Also like a sponsor program

2. Who can take a lead on getting grant funding information.
 - a. Liam volunteered to investigate and notify the board.
3. T-shirts
 - a. Looking at additional order in January to sell
4. Bridging Journals
 - a. 4 regional that will sell for \$10
 - b. Do not replace Joe's book
 - c. First region to go to print in January
5. Contest
 - a. 4H will have a category for covered bridges for a cb entry.
 - b. We will not reinvent what they are doing
 - c. 4H state day is 5-17-25
 - d. VCBS has been asked to provide a judge in Barre

Item 2: Publicity opportunities and costs of same - Beth Brown Limmer

1. We have extra money from t-shirt sales based on not mailing all t-shirts but having them personally delivered
2. Printing of the journals – we are looking for sponsors to pay for it
3. Proclamation is no cost
4. Publicity opportunities:
 - a. Podcast/video quarterly at Ludlow TV - \$50/year
 - i. Other podcast ideas?
 - ii. Phill Gatenbey doing CB videos, will have podcast regarding in January
 - b. French TV has requested interview
 - i. Have not connected yet but Liam, Jeanne and Miles will address
 - c. Okemo magazine winter issue will have an article on CBs
 - d. Jeanne contacted a local magazine to publish information
 - e. Liam would like a publicity plan
 - i. Jeanne has put together a list of magazine and newspapers, will email to Liam
 - f. We've been approached by new life member Peggy Wilson (& Bob)
 - i. Have a publicity company, want to help promote VCBS pro bono
 - ii. Need a press kit to post on the website.

1. Liam to write up and Steve post to website.

Item 3: Life Membership recognition - Beth Brown Limmer

1. We have 90 life members
2. Beth reviewed a new pin design to give to each life member.
 - a. 100 pins \$287 + shipping.
 - b. Will be mounted on a card like the Chiselsville CB Pin is.
3. Would require Scott to do some extra work to validate the membership.
4. Could include in giving to life members in the spring meeting or function for the 25th anniversary.
5. Board members agreed to progress with this.

Motion:

order lifetime membership pins. – Jeanne; seconded by Dan – unanimously approved, Joe and Mark yes by proxy
6. What additionally could we give life members?
 - a. discounts for the online store?

Item 4: New Director(s) - Beth Brown Limmer

1. Legislative Watch committee
 - a. Alisha Malay elected to House of Representatives from Pittsford/Proctor and will take on from Terry
 - b. She is also the Selectboard Chair for Pittsford
2. Treasurer
 - a. Liz Karle – town treasurer for Mt Holly. Willing to take on once becoming a member
 - b. Beth to follow up

Item 5: Big ticket Items in 2025 budget - Beth Brown Limmer/Dan Monger

1. \$3000 CB grant carried over until 2025 bridge
 - a. Was for Schoolhouse CB repairs in Lyndon. They have not responded so do we want to carry forward?
2. Office Admin
 - a. Insurance saw a slight increase
3. Bridgewatch/Legislative
 - a. Currently do not have a budget.
4. Historical –

- a. Archive storage – breach in credit card use was identified and had to set up a new card but no loss of money
- 5. Cost of Domain and Zoom accounts
 - a. Dan will contact Steve to discuss
- 6. Publicity/Speakers Bureau
 - a. Need to add mileage
 - b. membership for Okemo Valley TV
- 7. Membership
 - a. Add cost of the Lifetime pin
- 8. Education
 - a. Currently no budget but need to add something for basic supplies
- 9. Fundraising
 - a. Discussed that PayPal fees and Square fees are deducted from what we receive.
 - b. Beth will get year end report showing what costs we absorb

Item 6: Sponsorship - Beth Brown Limmer

- 1. Opportunity for ad in Rutland Magazine
 - a. Free magazine, high pickup rate due to World Cup Thanksgiving weekend in Killington, part of distribution area.
 - b. Scott Scribner sponsored ad for winter issue
 - c. Ad has 2025 logo, Scott has his own ad underneath VCBS ad saying a proud sponsor
- 2. What can we offer sponsors that will help defray our costs?
 - a. Space on website/newsletter
- 3. Beth spoke with Peggy Wilson(Wilson Creative Group in Naples FL) who believes the untapped sponsorship potential for VCBS is high
 - a. Willing to help set up sponsorship so we don't pay for all costs, e.g. insurance
 - b. Could be a banner ad on the website, list sponsor in newsletter, have tiers of sponsors
- 4. First need to put together information specific to sponsor telling them what can we give than.
- 5. National does not have a sponsorship program
- 6. We need to proceed in a measured manner
- 7. How do we vet sponsors and not accept some?
 - a. Beth to discuss with Peggy
 - b. Could we find sponsors that we want and contact them

- i. Companies that currently have CBs in their advertising
 - 1. Coca-cola, Toyota, Baker's Distributing (in Rutland pass out Coors light coaster with CB on them)

Item 7: Business Cards

- 1. Liam would like business cards with the publicity@VCBS.com instead of a personal email.
 - a. Needs to talk with Steve to arrange
- 2. Those of us with personal addresses on our business cards could also change the address to a committee@VCBS.com address instead for when others take over that position
 - a. Discuss with Steve

Item 8: Newsletter distribution to towns with CB

- 1. Sending newsletters to towns with CB. Do we have a list?
- 2. Liam to work with Steve to get to add to distribution.

Item 9: Bylaw updates

- 1. Proposal for President Emeritus was not reviewed but briefly discussed. Potential wording to include in bylaws to be discussed in next board meeting:

President Emeritus is an honorary title given to a former president of the VCBS who has retired after serving as President and providing distinguished service to the VCBS. The position is awarded by the VCBS Board of Directors for the life of the individual or until revoked by the VCBS Board of Directors.

Duties and Responsibilities

- 1. The President Emeritus provides guidance to the President of VCBS to assure continuity of Board activities and program development in matters of the VCBS.
- 2. Provides counsel to the VCBS Board of Directors in prioritizing association needs to reflect the mission, goals and objectives of the VCBS as well as identifying and addressing risks and opportunities for the VCBS.

3. Participates in VCBS Board of Directors meetings and conference calls as a non-voting member.

2. Use of the VCBS logo

Beth is proposing that the following be added to the bylaws for use of the VCBS logo:

- a. The VCBS logo was drawn by Frances Convers of Lyndonville, VT and colorized by Joseph Nelson of Jericho, VT. Through the years, it has been used on cloth patches, cling-on decals, ball caps, and our brochures. It is now synonymous with our organization and as such needs to be protected from imitation and unauthorized use.

Therefore, permission to use the VCBS logo must be requested, in writing, and taken into consideration by the full Board of Directors. Approval of the request will be made by majority vote of Directors, and the

Corresponding Secretary will send notice, with terms of use and time limits defined.

Use of VCBS logo by any party without written permission of the organization is expressly prohibited.

- b. Application for Permission to use VCBS Logo could ask:
Name:
Address:
Email:
Phone:
How you will use VCBS logo:
Specific limitations, if any,
Date of approval:
Time limit, if any, for use:
Signed (both parties) Date notification sent:
- c. A list of individuals and / or organizations with permission to use the VCBS logo will be maintained by the Secretary.
- d. Would it be worth spending \$500 to trademark our logo? Discuss in new meeting.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to VCBS member Karen Barnouw of Rutland. Karen won First Prize at the State Fair in Rutland in August for her 16" x 12" painting of the

Slaughterhouse Covered Bridge in Northfield, VT. Karen graciously donated her work to the VCBS.





PO Box 83
Brandon, VT
05733-0083



Vermont Covered Bridge Society Membership Application

Dues and donations are used to promote the preservation of Vermont’s covered bridges

Name: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____ Phone: () _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Membership: ☐ New ☐ Renewal
☐ Student (\$10) ☐ Individual (\$15) ☐ Couples (\$20) ☐ Life (\$200)
☐ Life-Couple (\$300) ☐ Business/Organization/Municipality (\$15)
(Memberships are valid to the end of the current calendar year)
(New memberships purchased in the fourth quarter are valid through the next calendar year)

Newsletter Delivery: ☐ Postal Mail ☐ Email ☐ Opt-out
Receive VCBS Email: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Donations:
☐ Palladio (\$2) ☐ Palmer (\$5) ☐ Hale (\$10) ☐ Burr (\$25)
☐ Powers (\$50) ☐ Town (\$75) ☐ Tasker (\$100) ☐ Long (\$150)
☐ Paddleford (\$200) ☐ Whipple (\$250)
☐ Other Amount (\$_____)
(The Vermont Covered Bridge Society is a 501c3 organization)

Return completed application with payment to:

Vermont Covered Bridge Society
PO Box 83
Brandon, VT 05733

(Checks payable to Vermont Covered Bridge Society)

OR Visit our website to join:

www.vermonthbridges.org/membership