



THE BRIDGER

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society Newsletter – December 2025

Mark Maddox, Editor

From the Editor

Welcome to the 103rd edition of *The Bridger*!

In this edition, you'll find reports on what we've been up to this year in Fundraising, Education, Membership, etc. As you read, I'm sure you'll see that there has been a lot going on!

In addition, you'll find covered bridge news, introductions to our 2 newest board members, our newest members and the passing of a member of our Bridge Family.

Finally, a correction for an item that was left out of the last edition – information regarding the founding of the VCBS.

As a reminder, the meeting minutes included are abbreviated. If you'd like to see the full minutes, they are found on the VCBS website under the members portal.

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!!

Cheers!

Mark Maddox (marmad40@gmail.com)

President's Report

- by Beth Brown-Limmer

First and foremost, I want to wish each of you a happy holiday season, and good health and prosperity in 2026. Thank you for all you have done for Vermont Covered Bridge Society in this our 25th anniversary year! It has been an extremely eventful year and so many of you have had a part in it. Together, we have made our mission of preserving Vermont's historic covered bridges better known. From newspaper articles to TV coverage to booths at many fairs, farmers markets and festivals, folks are now saying, "Oh, I saw you on TV!", or, "You were here last year!" Just the fact that VCBS has gained **100 new members** in 2025 speaks to our larger footprint.

Of course, we stand on the shoulders of the founders and early members of VCBS, and to now have a plaque, affixed to the Poland Covered Bridge in Cambridge Junction, VT, honoring them is fabulous! Thanks go to Jeanne and Marcel Beaudry of Derby for spearheading, and financing, this tribute to VCBS founders: Joseph

Nelson, William McKone, Ed Barna, and Terry Shaw. This plaque was dedicated on Sat. August 9, 2025.

There are "traditional" aspects of VCBS that will be carried into the next 25 years: quarterly newsletter to members, biannual meetings of members and prospective members, preservation of historical materials, lending library, and maintenance of VCBS website. In more recent years, the online store, annual VCBS calendar production, being vendors at Rutland State Fair, Chester Festival, and Pittsford Craft Show, and the "greening" of Rutland County CBs for the holidays were added.

However, in 2025, there were a number of "firsts" for VCBS. As the year draws to a close, I have made a list. First, the VCBS logo is being trademarked. Next, we adapted that logo for 2025, our 25th year, and put it on dark green T-shirts. We sold 100. There was a first-ever statewide poster contest, open to Vermonters aged 12-

President: Beth Brown Limmer, 2702 RTE 30, Sudbury, VT 05733, email: melby5584@aol.com

Vice President: Scott Scribner, 69 Park St, Brandon, VT 05733, email: scottscribner@earthlink.net

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

Treasurer: Joe Mitchell, 984 Burdeck St, Rotterdam, NY 12306, email: vcbs.treasurer@gmail.com

18. Graded school students learned about covered bridges at science fairs and field trips. A group of VCBS members went to the State House of Representatives to be recognized for our 25 years as a nonprofit organization in Vermont. Every VCBS life member was thanked and awarded a lapel pin. Two VCBS members were evaluators at VT 4-H State Day in Barre. An entire week was declared Covered Bridge Week in Vermont and events were planned and attended all over the state from August 2 to 9, 2025. VCBS was a first-time vendor at Tunbridge World's Fair in September. In October we went to Tap to Table in Cuttingsville (maple tap, not beer tap) for first time. New merchandise was added: regional bridge-visiting journals and decks of playing cards to name two.

So what's being planned for 2026?

First, we expect the trademark for VCBS logo to be registered early in the year. Next, two ambitious members will begin the arduous task of scanning and cataloging archival documents and photos. (Want to help? Let me know. They'd welcome you with open arms!) By February, we hope the new VCBS website will be up and running. I will seek another proclamation from Gov. Scott for Covered Bridge Week for August 1- 8, 2026. We hope to partner with towns who are fortunate enough to have at least one remaining historic covered bridge to plan speaking engagements and events. We will continue our podcast, aired on public access TV and radio in Vermont, with Phill Gatenby as the new host.

Have another idea about what VCBS could do in 2026? I'd love to hear it! Email me!

With warm regards and heartfelt thanks,
Beth Brown - Limmer

Directors Spotlight

Introducing Joe Mitchell - Treasurer



I joined the VCBS in 2022 after meeting up with my parents at the Vermont State Fair. While at the fair, we happened upon the VCBS booth, where Beth and Paul convinced us to join. After attending the fall meeting that year in Clarendon, I knew VCBS was something

I wanted to stay involved with. Growing up, my family spent a lot of time in West Dover, hiking during the summer and cross-country skiing during the winter. Trips to Brattleboro would take us across the Williamsville and Dummerston covered bridges. I find covered bridges interesting because they combine three different aspects: 1) the engineering and design that go into the functional purpose, 2) the history and story that comes with each one and the impact it had on the surrounding area, and 3) the aesthetics they bring to the landscape and scenery. I currently work as a mechanical engineer outside of Albany and look forward to my term as treasurer and being a good steward of the money those in the society have worked hard to raise, so that we can fulfill the mission of the VCBS

Introducing Gary Briggs - Events Committee Chair



Gary Briggs is the co-founder and former owner of Aunt Sadie's Candles. Prior to Aunt Sadie's, Briggs was a long-time professional in events management and has championed numerous non-profit causes

including The Jimmy Fund, AIDS Care Ocean State, Operation Smile, and local and regional charities. Born and raised in Lunenburg, Briggs returned to his hometown in 2010 after a 25-year stint in Boston. Briggs is a former Select Board member for the Town of Lunenburg and currently serves as the Town Clerk/Treasurer. When he's not working for the Town, he spends his time with his beloved pup Jack, antiquing, golfing and playing tennis. Briggs has been fascinated with covered bridges since his upbringing in Lunenburg and travels back and forth over the Mount Orne Covered Bridge. He believes Vermont's covered bridges are one of the State's most treasured historic assets and is thrilled to have the opportunity to work to assure these structures continue to adorn the landscape of communities throughout Vermont.

Committee Reports

Communication/Historical Committee – Steve Miyamoto

Are you aware that VCBS has a lending library for covered bridge information? Members in good standing have access to our lending library through our members portal.

We currently have over 70 items in the collection. The requested item(s) will be sent via Postal Service Media Mail. Books are returned the same way. Send your request with the complete title of the book(s) you wish to borrow. We will respond with the mailing cost and mail the order when the fee is received. The borrower is then responsible for returning the item(s) within a reasonable time, preferably within two months.

If you have covered bridge books you would like to share, the library will be pleased to accept them. Click on the books logo below to access the lending library catalog.



<https://www.librarvcat.org/lib/VCBS#>

Contact the VCBS by mail at
PO Box 977
Jeffersonville, VT 05465
or by email at vermontcoveredbridgesociety@gmail.com

Membership Committee – Scott Scribner

The Countdown to 100!

This year I had a goal of bringing on 100 new members to the Vermont Covered Bridge Society. I must admit that it was a lot of fun going out and meeting new “potential” members and then seeing you actually sign up to become “official” members. Getting to 100 sounded like a daunting task but gradually, as the months ticked by, our 2025 membership slowly grew. Now that we are winding down the year, our membership roster as of today (November 25th) is sitting at 100 new members. If I told you that I did this all by myself, then you would know that I was telling another funny story. Everyone of your board members is responsible for these awesome numbers and members joining.

We were unable to list new members in our last newsletter due to space constraints so are picking up where we left off. Let’s all welcome our new members

who have joined since June 2025! These members are the future of VCBS! Thank you all for joining and thank you to our dedicated members that have been with us over the years! You are all greatly appreciated!

Theo Anagnostaras - Marlboro, VT
Maddie Archumbault - Holland, VT
Sandra Arnold & Steve Bernhardt - Pattersonville, NY
Karen Baldwin - Westboro, MA
Darlene Bean - East Wakefield, NH
Gary Briggs - Lunenburg, VT
Bruce & Mei Mei Brown - Brandon, VT
Diane Bryant - Brandon, VT
Marvin Bubie - Clifton Park, NY
Gladdys Church - Weston, VT
Brian Collamore - Rutland, VT
Kirsten & Herb Detrick - Fairlee, VT
Ann & Paul Dingler - Hinesburg, VT
Kevin & Aileen Durkee - Fair Haven, VT
Nancy Eddy - White River Junction, VT
Victor Flemming - Port Townsend, WA
Linda Francis - Weybridge, VT
Kara Francis - Weybridge, VT
Ava Gallison - East Calais, VT
Sheryl & Horst Gebauer - Clarendon, VT
Mya Girard - Jay, VT
Larry Gladfelter - New Oxford, PA
Green Mountain Sign & Graphics- Adam Karle - Ludlow, VT
Brianna Hollbrook - Hardwick, VT
Frank Scott Johnson - Colchester, VT
Paul & Bea Laramie - Fair Haven, VT
Jon & Juliet Limmer - New Holland, PA
Bart & Lisa Mair - Perkinsville, VT
Timothy Merrill - Seal Rock, OR
Haylee Messing - Ludlow, VT
Ken Moulton & Donna Taranko - Weston, VT
Mckenna Murphy - Londonderry, VT
Nates Maple Syrup - Lunenburg, VT
Todd & Aida Nielsen - Brandon, VT
Karli Partridge - Hardwick, VT
Kevin & Carla Peck - North Clarendon, VT
James Powers - Essex Junction, VT
Dan & Robin Pucillo - Northfield, VT

Ella Renaud - Hardwick, VT
 Stephen Roth - Oldwick, NJ
 Justin Ross - Middletown, NH
 Gerry & Pat Royer - Derby, VT
 Noel Rubinton - Chevy Chase, MA
 Mary Ruth - Mendon, VT
 Allayna Scelza - East Charleston, VT
 Steve & Elsie Sherrill - Goshen, VT
 Robert & Stephen Simon - Farmington, CT
 Patricia Simpson - West Lebanon, NH
 Sue & Matt Solera - Kings Park, NY
 Martha & Val Stegemoen - Blackstone, MA
 Stewarts Maple - Cuttingsville, VT
 Nicholas Thielsen - Burlington, VT
 Dakota Thomas & Christopher DeNegre - Trubull, CT
 Barry Trutor - Burlington, VT
 Bill and Elaine Trutor - Holden, MA
 Clayton Trutor - Burlington, VT
 Phyllis & John Willey - Essex Junction, VT
 Malcolm Willard - Vergennes, VT

We also welcome the following towns:

Town of Brattleboro
 Town of Clarendon
 Town of Lunenburg
 Town of Waitsfield
 Town of Warren

Best wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year! Scott E. Scribner – VP and Membership Chairperson

Education Committee – Jeanne Beaudry

I've been busy the first few months of the school year working on new lesson plans to share with fourth grade teachers, which I have been asked to also share with the NSPCB. Marcel and I spent more than a week with a local school making popsicle stick bridges with third, fourth and fifth grade students. We also took all 27 students to the Orne Covered Bridge near the school where the students took measurements on the bridge: length, width, distance from the downriver side to the water. They also learned about the history of the bridge and the reason it had to be rebuilt. Marcel and I, teachers, and students all had an educational and fun day.



Photo by Jeanne and Marcel Beaudry

Events Committee – Beth Brown-Limmer

If you've already read the President's Report in this newsletter, you know that I have handed over one of my hats to Gary Briggs. He was officially added to the VCBS Board of Directors at our Nov. 20, 2025, meeting. I am thrilled that Gary will now be the Events Committee Chairman, and can't wait to see what interesting and fresh ideas he will bring to our member meetings! Gary has experience in event planning and is already planning a venue in his hometown of Lunenburg, VT for Spring meeting on Sat. June 6, 2026. Watch for more details in the March 2026 *Bridger*. However, I think you folks from northern Vermont may have your wish granted for a meeting close by. Stay tuned.

The Fall 2025 Meeting was held at Martin Memorial Hall in Weathersfield, Vt on Sat. Oct 4th. This venue was suggested by Director Neil Daniels as he had a VCBS meeting there years ago. It was splendid that Neil was able to come to the Business Meeting and it was a grand day weather-wise and otherwise. Minutes of that meeting are elsewhere in this newsletter. There was a small Silent Auction and Teacup Raffle which netted \$82.00 and \$98.00, respectively. With lunch donations and merchandise sales, the food and paper products were entirely offset. The venue rental fee was returned to VCBS because the refrig / freezer stopped working the night before the meeting. **Net gain: \$ 110.17** and I have a lot of paper products to hand on to Gary for future use.

Indulge me momentarily while I recap my tenure as the Events Committee Chair and thank my committee members: Karen Tryon, Nancy Hodgson, Rhonda Vannest, and Paul Limmer. I accepted this role on June 18, 2022. In 3.5 years, we planned and executed seven member meetings.

See if you can remember which ones you came to! Did you join VCBS at a meeting?

- Fall 2022, Sat. Oct. 8, 2022, Clarendon Community Ctr, Clarendon (Rutland County)
- Spring 2023 Sat. June 10, 2023, Battenkill Grange Pavillon, W. Arlington (Bennington Co)
- Fall 2023 Sat. Oct. 7, 2023, Thompson Senior Ctr., Woodstock (Windsor County)
- Spring 2024 Sat. June 8, 2024, Charlotte Senior Ctr, Charlotte, VT (Chittenden County)
- Fall 2024 Sat. Sept 28, 2024, Warren Town Hall, Warren, VT (Washington County)
- Spring 2025 Sat. June 7, 2025, Main Street Arts, Saxtons River, VT (Windham County)
- Fall 2025 Sat. Oct. 4, 2025, Martin Memorial Hall, Weathersfield, VT (Windsor County)

So, is it time for a VCBS member meeting in Essex County, Vermont? You betcha! And then probably Caledonia, Orange, and Addison counties should have a turn. But that will be up to our newly installed Events Committee Chairman, Gary Briggs!

Thanks to everyone who helped with set-up, dish washing, and breakdown, or brought food or raffle items. Thanks for the donations to defray food costs, and for leading caravans. But most of all, thanks for your unwavering devotion to our growth and mission to preserve the historic covered bridges in Vermont! See you in the Spring at our next meeting!

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Brown - Limmer

Fundraising Committee- Beth Brown-Limmer

Where did I leave off in recanting the fundraising activities of 2025? I believe we'd just finished going to Best of Vermont Summer Festival in Ludlow in late August when I wrote the last report.

Since then, there have been five fundraising events. By far, the most exciting and rewarding was our debut at the

Tunbridge World's Fair (TWF) from September 11 – 14, 2025. VCBS was one of two vendors in Heritage Hall, where memorabilia from first fair in 1867 to present is displayed. The attendance was record-breaking, the weather perfect, and VCBS **netted \$2,300.00** in sales and donations in the four days of 2025 TWF. Everyone was glad to see us there, many tales of Vermont's covered bridges were swapped, and our membership grew nicely. Count this as a win – win – win! VCBS would like to return next September. Special thanks to my sales crew: Sally and Ed Cleveland, Steve Brown, Mark Maddox, Scott and Barbara Scribner, and Paul Limmer. How about some fun next September, Vermont – style? It's not too early to sign up for TWF 2026, Sept 17 – 20! Help out at the VCBS booth and then see a real country fair in Tunbridge!

Six days after TWF, VCBS was at Chester Festival on Sept 20 & 21, 2025, our third year there. The town of Chester is completely swarmed during this weekend. After 50 years, it has outgrown its traditional location on the green and will be moved to a more pedestrian – friendly spot in Chester in 2026. VCBS sales and donations totaled just over \$1,000 after expenses, down nearly \$200 from 2024, possibly due to a different spot being assigned. However, it was another great weekend, weather-wise or otherwise. Special thanks to Scott Scribner and Mark Maddox who did the lion's share of the hours this year, giving Paul and I a much-needed break.

The next fundraising event, Tap to Table in Cuttingsville, was a first for VCBS. Scott Scribner, Mark Maddox, and Peggy Wilson did all the setup, selling, recruiting, educating, and breakdown. This was the fifth year of this event, sponsored by Stewart Maple of Cuttingsville, and each year the attendance has grown. VCBS had sales and donations of \$605. Space was donated by sponsor. For a 6-hour event, that is a great outcome! This is another one we hope to put on our dance card in 2026.

Next was the 200th birthday party for the oldest covered bridge in America: Hyde Hall CB in East Springfield, NY. Located within the Glimmerglass State Park, it is in great condition and a crowd assembled to celebrate on a perfect Autumn day, October 11, 2025. Members from covered bridge associations in PA, OH, NY, VT, and IN joined the National Society along with many local residents and dignitaries. All four officers of VCBS were there, some merchandise (\$ 176.28) was sold, and new

members recruited. Any day in the company of fellow covered bridge enthusiasts is a good day!



Joe Mitchell, Mark Maddox, Scott Scribner, Beth Brown-Limmer

Lastly, Paul and I went to the Pittsford Craft Show on Sat. Nov. 15, 2025, our fourth year here. There were several competing craft shows in Rutland County that day which resulted in less foot traffic and fewer sales (\$179.87 net). However, all vendor fees (\$25 / space) go to support Pittsford's Christmas Child Project, a worthy local cause.

There will be a VCBS table at Moonlight Madness in Brandon on Wed. Dec 3 and Thurs. Dec 11, 2025! Find the Scribners in Brandon Town Hall from 4 – 8 pm. This will be the last opportunity to buy jigsaw puzzles, 2026 VCBS calendars, and other CB – related items in person this year. Christmas is coming!

So, how much money has been raised at these five FR events since September 1, 2025? Just north of \$ 4300.00! Thanks again to the sales crews, sponsors, and buyers!

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Brown – Limmer
Fundraising Committee Chair

Passages

Terry E. Miller

February 19, 1945 – October 1, 2025



The covered bridge community lost a strong advocate in covered bridge preservation with the passing of Terry E. Miller.

Terry E. Miller, of Kent, OH, passed away unexpectedly on October 1, 2025. Terry was a professor of

Ethnomusicology at Kent State University from 1975 to 2005. His worldwide research in traditional music and cultures, and his mentorship of generations of students, leave a deep legacy in the music field.

Terry was born in Dover, OH on February 19, 1945, to Max T. Miller and Anna Lou (Ellis) Miller. He studied music, majoring in organ performance at The College of Wooster, where he met his first wife Elizabeth

Limkemann. They had two daughters, Sonia and Esther. Terry married Sara Stone in 1985, and they shared 40 happy years together. Terry was drafted into the US Army in 1968 and was sent to Long Bin Base in Vietnam in 1969. He discovered and became fascinated with Southeast Asian music during this deployment. After completing his Master's Degree at Indiana University with a thesis focused on American traditional shape-note singing and the singing-school master Alexander Auld, he returned to Southeast Asia for fieldwork for his doctoral degree, living in Maha Sarakam, Thailand with his family from 1972-74. He focused on the traditional Northeast Thai/Lao instrument called khaen, completing his dissertation "Khaen Playing and Mawlum Singing in Northeast Thailand" at Indiana University. In 1975 he began his academic career at KSU, where he built the world music program along with William Anderson, Halim El Dabh and others. He established the Kent State Thai Ensemble, for many years the only Thai ensemble at an American academic institution, and the Kent State Chinese Ensemble.

In addition to Thailand, Terry did field research along with his wife Sara in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Myanmar, as well as in China, another major area of specialization. His other major research interests included oral-tradition American hymnody, shape-note singing, the tradition of lining out among both black and white congregations, and the singing of the Church of

God and Saints of Christ. This led him to conduct research in the United States, Jamaica, Trinidad, St. Vincent, Scotland and South Africa, again with his wife Sara. One of Terry and Sara's greatest pleasures was ballroom dancing, which they studied for 30 years as both participants and as a research subject. Terry wrote and/or edited many books, encyclopedias, and journal publications, including The Garland Encyclopedia of World Music: Southeast Asia volume with Sean Williams and the textbook World Music: A Global Journey with Andrew Shahriari.

Terry's other lifelong interest was covered bridges. As a child, his father took him to visit and photograph covered bridges around Ohio. Terry quickly became an expert on covered bridge histories and construction techniques and was one of the founding members (as well as the youngest) of the Southern Ohio Covered Bridge Association (now the Ohio Historical Bridge Association) in 1960. He applied his rigorous research and fieldwork training to covered bridges, writing several books on the subject. After retirement, Terry's scope of covered bridge research expanded. He joined teams of experts and photographers along with Sara on extensive tours of China, Europe, and North America to visit hundreds of bridges. From these trips they published two beautifully illustrated and highly informative books: China's Covered Bridges: Architecture Over Water and America's Covered Bridges: Practical Crossings – Nostalgic Icons. His last major publication and Covid-era project, with Ronald Knapp, was a 500-page history of Theodore Burr, a prominent 19th century bridge builder.

Terry and Sara spent a considerable amount of time in Thailand on a yearly basis where they have a diverse community of close friends and acquaintances. Terry was a friend to many, maintaining decades-long friendships with many people around the world. He was a devoted teacher and mentor to many who studied and worked with him, maintaining strong connections with many of them years after they graduated. The impact of his scholarship, the knowledge he produced, his contributions to the profession, and the integrity with which he worked, will continue to be felt for many years. He was also an affectionate husband, father, brother, grandfather, and uncle, and enjoyed golf, travel (usually involving covered bridges), good food, and ice cream cones with family. His pie-making skill was legendary, as was his dry quirky sense of humor.

Terry is survived by his beloved wife Sara and their three cats; his daughters, Sonia (Robert) Srichai and Esther (Robert) Thatcher; his grandchildren, Blake, Fiona, Samantha, Ryan, and Simona; his sister Ellen Matics; cherished sister-in-law Susan Miller, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings Judy Garza and Jeffrey Miller.

Calling hours were Friday, November 14, 2025, from 5:00-7:00PM at Bissler and Sons Funeral Home 628 W. Main St. Kent, OH 44240. Memorial services were held Saturday, November 15, 2025 at 11:00AM at The United Methodist Church of Kent, 1435 E. Main St. Kent, OH 44240.

Bridges in the News

- By Mark Maddox

Miller's Run Covered Bridge – Lyndon Article from the Lydon Institute

Last spring, LI Welding students built a metal barrier to protect the historic Miller's Run Covered Bridge. Over

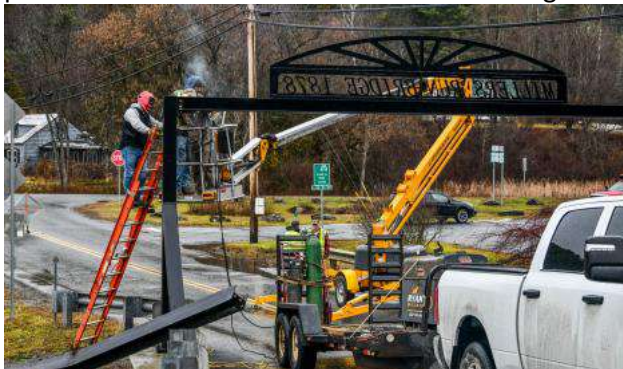


Photo courtesy Lyndon Institute

the summer, that barrier took a major hit and this fall our students helped repair the damage! The Welding Metal Fabrication 1 class assisted in fixing the original bent bridge sign. The Welding Metal Fabrication 2 class prepared new parts, including cutting a new beam to size. Steven Werner '26 led the sign restoration, straightening the decorative sheet metal and replacing the tubing. Both classes returned to the site on Thursday to help install it, with on-site cutting and welding made possible by equipment from Ryans Welding. Students Karter Morey-Dwyer '26 and Abbie Walker '27, along with instructor Ryan Birll, Completed the final welds. Their efforts highlight the meaningful role students can play in caring for local landmarks while building practical hands-on skills.

Cambridge Junction and Morgan Bridge

With the approach of winter, the Poland/Cambridge Junction Bridge in Cambridge Junction and the Morgan bridge in Belvedere both have been closed to traffic until spring.

Red Covered Bridge – Morristown

Somewhere around 10/27/2025, the Red Covered bridge was hit by an unknown vehicle. Police are still looking for the individuals who caused the damage.



Photo courtesy of Morristown PD

Sanborn Covered Bridge - Lyndon

A revised plan to renovate the Sanborn Covered Bridge was presented to the Development Review Board of Lyndon in early November. The new design raises the bridge 4 feet so that it will be 1 foot above the 500-year flood level of the Passumpsic River. This increases the waterway opening beneath the bridge by about 50% from the prior plan to 278 square feet. This will not only help to protect the bridge but the surrounding area from the impact of flooding. Additionally, access ramps for pedestrians were changed.

The projects budget of \$2.2 million has not been changed from the original plan submitted 2 years ago. If the plan is approved by the Development Review Board of Lyndon, bids will go out in Winter with the hopes of starting work in the Spring. If bids are higher than the budget, the town may need to scale back work.

Correction!

- By Mark Maddox

In our last edition of *the Bridger*, for covered bridge week, I included the celebration at the Poland / Cambridge Junction Covered bridge and placing the plaque to commemorate our founders. I told Joe Nelson that I would include information regarding the founding in the newsletter – specifically what we included in the first

edition of *the Bridger*. I unfortunately left that out. So, to correct that, here is the original, Special Edition of *the Bridger*, regarding the founding of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society, published early 2000. I think this may be of interest especially for our new members. (Sorry for leaving this out Joe!)

Announcing the Vermont Covered Bridge Society!!

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society, Inc., incorporated in February 2000, is now open for memberships. The Society was founded to address concerns about the loss of Vermont's historically significant wooden spans. We hope you will join us in preserving, exploring, and enjoying our unique collection of covered bridges.

The Society owes its existence to William McKone, resident of the Town of Cambridge, member of the newly organized Cambridge Historical Society, and member of the local Chamber of Commerce. Cambridge is the home of two covered bridges, one of which is badly in need of restoration. When Federal funds for restoring covered bridges became available through U.S. Senator James Jeffords, Bill McKone set aside his other affairs and began to aggressively rally concerned people to found a covered bridge society in Vermont.

McKone first recruited Joe Nelson, author of the book "Spanning Time: Vermont's Covered Bridges." He then approached Ed Barna, author of the book "Covered Bridges of Vermont." Ed Barna joined the cause with enthusiasm. Senator Jeffords' staff used photographs from Nelson's book in the Senator's presentation to the U.S. Senate for the adoption of his funding bill. After passage of the bill, Jeffords' staff consulted Ed Barna on which of Vermont's covered bridges were most in need of funds.

Bill McKone, Joe Nelson and Ed Barna thank Richard Willson, David Wright, Richard Roy, Terry Shaw and Douglass Porter for joining the VCBS Board of directors. Dick Wilson is President of the New York Covered Bridge Society, David Wright and Dick Roy are President

and Vice President of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges. These two organizations have long been watching Vermont's covered bridges with loving concern and the VCBS will gratefully benefit from their long experience with speaking and acting for the preservation of historic bridges. Terry Shaw is a concerned citizen and Cambridge businessman and Doug Porter, a new resident of Cambridge, is a consultant in the field of the preservation of historic architecture.

With the infant VCBS only a few weeks old, there couldn't be a better time for people who have a special place in their hearts for covered bridges to join. There are openings for every kind of talent.

If you don't have the time for an active role, that's all right, too; VCBS needs people who enjoy the covered bridges and want to keep them for our posterity. The Society plans to sponsor social activities for all of the friends of covered bridges. We need your ideas and enthusiasm.

The purpose of the VCBS is twofold:

- 1) To preserve Vermont's Covered Bridges!
- 2) To provide fellowship for Bridgers!

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society, Inc., was incorporated in February 2000 to address concerns about the loss of these important symbols of our heritage: Vermont's covered bridges. We hope you will join us in preserving, exploring, and enjoying our unique collection of covered bridges in the state.

The number of covered bridges in Vermont have dwindled down from more than 500 to fewer than 100 today. While many were lost to the flood of 1927, significant numbers were lost to modernization and some

to vandalism. The old bridges, built of timbers from long-gone forests, fashioned by long-gone craftsmen serve now as a monuments to early times. Popular with visitors, perhaps because they have an extraordinary ability to evoke the spirit of the past, taking viewers back to the days of horses and buggies, sleigh rides, and a simpler way of life. The Vermont Covered Bridge Society wants to keep them that way.

When a bridge is in trouble, and repairs are on the agenda, the VCBS will be there to help preserve what makes a covered bridge valuable by lending its voice to advise town officials on the subject of preservation, help with fund raising, and to inform the public.

To help keep a covered bridge healthy and in service, VCBS volunteers see that the bridge gets the attention it needs by working with the town; brush clearing, sweeping, painting, fireproofing, removing graffiti , and keeping watch.

The VCBS helps find funds to provide signage to direct the public to the bridges, and present historical data for bridge viewers;

The VCBS Provides volunteers to maintain Bridge Watches against vandalism and to notify authorities when a bridge need attention;

The VCBS Publishes a Quarterly Newsletter for the members of the society and for the historical societies and town administrators where the bridges are located;

The VCBS Maintains liaison with other preservation organizations to lend voice in support of preserving covered bridges and to share resources.

Board of Directors Meetings

- by Mark Maddox

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society Board of Directors have started meeting more frequently. Instead of printing a complete copy of the minutes in the newsletter, a synopsis will be included. Full copies of the minutes are available on the Vermont Covered Bridge Society website under the member's portal.

Abbreviated minutes from our September and November meetings are as follows:

September 25, 2025

Item 1: Joe Mitchell unanimously elected to the Treasurer position.

Item 2: Trademark update

- a. Trademark was submitted in January, and we received questions that had to be addressed
- b. Will hire an attorney to resolve issues.

Item 3: Zoom

- a. Zoom renews on 11-23 for \$184

- b. Decided to non-renew Zoom and move to Google Meets.

Item 4: QR subscription

- a. QR renews on 10-31 for \$170/year – do we continue to use?
- b. QR codes on patches were put on some bridges starting in 2014.
 - i. Links people to VCBS
- c. Code patches would need to be removed from the bridges
- d. Will investigate on-going strategy with new website

Item 5: Lending Library- TinyCat \$36.00 a year

- a. This is software used for our lending library
- b. Steve has been paying for this out of pocket
- c. A member benefit, only available in the member portal.
 - i. Items are stored in our archives.
 - ii. The lender pays for the shipping before sending
 - iii. No requests for several years.
 - iv. Will discuss how to promote

Item 6: Policy on distribution of covered bridge material.

- a. What is our policy on providing society generated material to promote Vermont's covered bridges including education materials?
- b. Add to November board meeting

Item 7: The value of the VCBS social media accounts.

- a. The accounts do not seem to be used to promote many of the events that have taken place over the summer. Should we continue using these accounts or move on to something else?
- b. Prior to an event (e.g. Covered Bridge Week), information is posted to the Vermont Covered Bridge Society Facebook page
- c. Steve will grant access to the Vermont Covered Bridge Society Facebook page so everyone is able to post there as they are able

Item 8: Bylaw changes to be brought up at Fall Meeting on 10-4

- a. Should we open board meetings to the general membership?
 - i. Decision to not open board meeting to membership.
 - ii. Beth to bring up at Fall meeting that any member can contact a board member with concerns or items they feel should be addressed.

- b. Donations of less than \$50 to VCBS will be added to the general operating checking account to defray the cost of operating expenses. Larger donations go to the Save-a-Bridge Fund “unless earmarked by the donor”
- c. Creation of Assistant Treasurer position.

Item 9: Member of the year

- a. Many of our year-to-year members have done a lot for the VCBS
- b. Create a member of the year to recognize this
- c. Awarded Steve Brown to recognize his work on the VCBS calendar, the new bridge journals and other activities.

Item 10: Board members send a photo and short bio for the website to Peggy**Item 11:** Fall meeting update – October 4th – Weathersfield**Item 12:** Committee Reports – skipped due to time**Item 13:** Skip October board meeting**November 20, 2025****Item 1:** Gary Briggs elected to the Events Coordinator position.**Item 2:** Officer Reports

- a. Presidents Report – Beth Brown Limmer
 - i. Alicia Malay, chair of Pittsburg Select Board, is proposing a bill to increase fines for damage to covered bridges
 - 1. Alicia might be willing to join us as Legislative Watch chair
 - ii. Starting ad hoc group for member benefit recommendation
 - iii. Website content review –stand up a committee to review what will be on the new website
- b. Vice-President Report – Scott Scribner
 - i. Preparing for moonlight madness 12-3 & 12-11 at Brandon Town Hall
- c. Treasurer's Report – Joe Mitchell
 - i. Report on finances
- d. Secretary's Report – Mark Maddox
 - i. Reviewed Donations year to date
 - ii. Reviewed open rates for email sent to members.
 - 1. Calendar order email – 10-13: 213
71.4% open rate

- 2. Fall online meeting email -10-1: 63.4% open rate
- iii. Reviewed Speakers Bureau presentations for 2025.
- iv. Reviewed Online Store Orders
- v. Reviewed open rates on electronic Newsletter
 - 1. September email: 63.4% open rate
 - 2. June (corrected link) email: 63.5% open rate

Item 3: Committee Reports

- a. Publicity Committee – Peggy Wilson
 - i. Working on creating a media kit
 - ii. Wants to do a press release for education committee.
 - iii. Will continue understanding the Marketing aspect of how to streamline committees.
 - iv. Goal to launch sponsorship package when website is launched
 - v. Trademark update – successfully resubmitted, no updates
 - vi. Where do we spend our marketing dollars?
 - vii. Need to have input on the new website
- b. Education Committee – Jeanne Beaudry
 - i. Plans for schools
 - 1. January/February plan to email schools throughout Vermont with fourth grade lesson plans/activities for Covered Bridge Education for teachers to use with their students
 - ii. Poster contest
 - 1. Would like to have another contest this winter/spring again for high school students.
 - iii. 4-H and State Day 2026 - Pending
- c. Bridge Watch Committee - various
 - i. Cambridge Junction Bridge is closed for the Winter
 - ii. Millers Run Covered bridge headache bar up
 - iii. Brown Covered Bridge clearance sign not updated
 - iv. School house covered bridge walkway in bad shape. Miles has offered to work on it if they wanted.

- v. Morgan bridge in Belvedere closes every year
- d. Membership Committee – Scott Scribner
 - i. Goal of 100 new members. Currently we have 95 new members
- e. Fundraising Committee – Beth Brown Limmer
 - i. Joe M. creating an inventory of the merchandise we have to sell
- f. Communication Committee – Steve Miyamoto
 - i. Steve provided info to put in the newsletter to publicize Lending Library
 - ii. QR badges on bridges
 - iii. QR code generator did renew
 - iv. Received a couple membership based on a badge so is still pertinent
 - 1. Steve reported that about ½ of the bridges have the QR badge on them
 - 2. Need permission for towns to put badges on bridges; state does not allow it on state owned bridges
- g. Historical Committee – Steve Miyamoto
 - i. Work on archiving/scanning is delayed due to new website development
- h. Events Committee – Beth Brown Limmer / Gary Briggs
 - i. Spring meeting – Gary investigating holding it at the Congregational Meeting House in Lunenburg.
 - 1. No charge to use
 - 2. No internet or restrooms but can use restrooms at school next door
 - 3. Lunch could be at school next door.

Item 4: New items

- a. Action item from September meeting – Policy on distribution of Covered Bridge material
 - This will be included as part of the member benefits discussion
- b. Discussion items from Gary
 - ii. Town Fair that he attended – feels it would be good for the VCBS to attend.
 - iii. Approach Covered Bridge towns for their support – ask for \$100?
 - 1. Gary has drafted letter to send to towns which will be sent

Fall Meeting Minutes – October 4, 2025

- by Mark Maddox

These are the abbreviated minutes from the Fall Meeting in Weathersfield on October 4th. During our Spring

2026 meeting in Lunenburg, the full minutes will be presented to the members for approval.

I. Call to Order

1. Meeting Kick off – 10:30 am by Beth Brown-Limmer, President
2. Introduction of the attendees – 28 attended the business meeting in person, 1 via Zoom

II. Officers' Reports

1. **Minutes** - Approve minutes from Spring Meeting – June 7, 2025
 - a. Approved unanimously
2. **President report** - Beth Brown-Limmer – President
 - a. Covered Bridge week started as an idea from the June 2024 meeting in Charlotte
 - i. 13 meetings convened to decide what would happen
 - ii. May 2nd, 13 members attended session in the house of representatives
 - iii. Alicia Malay, representative from Proctor, introduced VCBS.
 - iv. House concurrent resolution – HCR-129 declared Covered Bridge Week
 - a. 2nd Covered Bridge week in VT, first in 2004.
 - v. Poster Contest
 - vi. Banners sold to 13 towns – total of 23 banners
 - vii. 4 Regional Journals highlighting covered bridges in VT broken down by region
 - viii. 25th anniversary T-shirts (sold 100)
 - b. Have had 7 board meetings throughout the year
 - c. Steve Miyamoto resigned as Vice President, Scott Scribner appointed to complete term
3. **Treasurer's Report** – Dan Monger, outgoing Treasurer
 - a. Dan acknowledged 3 treasurers in the room – Neil Daniels, former treasurer; Dan Monger, outgoing treasurer; and Joe Mitchell new treasurer
 - b. Full Treasurer's report included as Appendix C (full report online)
 - i. Includes banner money, donations, membership dues, misc. merchandise and calendars
 - ii. Our mission statement in part is to provide money to towns responsible for maintaining bridges – misc. repairs and damage due to trucks included
 - a. Money donated to the Theodore Burr Center for website development
 - iii. Save-a-bridge fund is calculated from donations and net sales, not member dues
 - iv. Office administration – shared across all committees
 - a. Exception is storage of items that goes under the historical committee
 - v. Publicity – need to add donations that Peggy is doing
 - vi. Membership – need to add donations that Scott and Barbara have contributed
 - vii. Events – applies to the Spring and Fall meetings only
 - viii. Fundraising – applies to all events other than Spring and Fall meetings, costs such as calendars
 - ix. Total expenses show \$32,455.25 with a net loss of \$10,656.08 which is due to money moved to our CD and Savings account
 - x. Total cash assets are \$32,189.41
 - xi. Diane Sullivan wants relief from shipping VCBS products, so we are looking for a replacement
 - xii. Online store only has room for 10 items
 - xiii. Peter Chapin checks the Jeffersonville Post Office box for us
 - xiv. Motion to accept Treasurers report made by Joe, Seconded by Jeanne
 - xv. Question on Trademark – What was the impetus?
 - a. People had been trying to poach our logo
 - b. Currently, there are some questions which a lawyer is working on to resolve.
 - i. Initial budget of \$750 for the trademark
 - ii. Spent \$250 to register for goods, \$250 to register for services
 - iii. Remaining \$250 should be enough to pay for lawyer
 - xvi. Under Fundraising Committee, calendar expenses should be just 2026, not include 2025

- c. After questions, members voted unanimously to approve Treasurers report.

III. Committee Reports

1. **Publicity Committee** – Peggy Wilson

- a. Covered Bridge Week – great coverage, 17 to 20 media outlets did reporting
- b. Covered Bridge Week 2026 – will work with towns to start thinking about it in February/March
- c. Trademark – working with attorney
 - a. Tuesday meeting to finalize
 - b. Will allow us to put the registration trademark on the logo
- d. Looking to make a publicity release on our board changes
- e. Website – demoed the new website
 - a. Menu includes – About, Covered Bridge Tour, Events, News & Resources, Membership, Market Place, Contact
 - b. Making this mobile friendly and responsive
 - c. Allows for scrolling, better navigation
 - d. Includes Quick links
 - e. Currently it will be available for Public view, not member only
 - f. Includes Instagram feed, clicking allows user to follow and join
 - g. Can also add Facebook feed
 - h. Current logo is for the 25th anniversary so it will change
 - i. Phase 2 includes Gallery and digital press kit (which is downloadable); on-line store with 1 location – this is currently a technology challenge
 - j. Phase I hopefully will go live with sponsorships
 - k. About Page is currently being worked
 - l. Phase I launch will take user to some of the existing pages
 - m. Use of buttons to allow easy access

- n. Special thanks section – correct spelling of Barna (additional spelling items are under review)
- o. FAQ – add “Why are bridges covered?”
- p. With google search, our goal is to have us listed on top and be included in the AI generation when a user executes a search
- q. Is the website open to all users? - Board needs to decide how to do this
- r. Will be pursuing corporate sponsors – varying levels available
- s. Media page is meant to serve the media/journalists to get facts, communications, etc.
- t. Is there value with VCBS interacting with 251 club?
- u. We need to explore. Potential presentation on the VCBS to the 251 club to see how we can coordinate

2. **Education Committee** – Jeanne Beaudry - Chair

- a. Worked with Coventry Middle school to develop 4-week unit on covered bridges
- b. Worked with 3rd, 4th and 5th graders to make popsicle stick bridges
- c. Attended open house with a booth for VCBS
- d. Kids from school walked to Orne Covered Bridge in Irasburg with Jeanne and Marcel to see firsthand
- e. When the unit was completed, Jeanne and Marcel attended the students report out of what they had learned during the Covered Bridge unit.
 - a. Jeanne brought a book of pictures with the students’ work and thank you notes.
- f. Jeanne is asking for members to join education committee to work with schools in the middle and southern Vermont.
- g. Would like a poster contest that includes posting the pictures that students make around Vermont

3. **Communications Committee** – Beth read Steve Miyamoto’s (chair) report

- a. New website in phase 1 development – reviewed by Peggy, timeline undetermined
- b. If anyone has an interest in website or social media maintenance, please let Steve know
- c. Restructuring of VCBS communications in the works – stay tuned
- 4. **Historical Committee** – Beth read Steve Miyamoto’s (chair) report
 - a. We continue to receive donations of covered bridge collections
 - b. Liam McKone has contributed material back to the founding of the VCBS
 - c. If anyone has an interest in working with historical material, please let Steve know.
- 5. Bridge Watch Committee – Beth reported for Miles Jenness (Chair)
 - a. Miles has had a very busy year
 - b. Slaughterhouse Bridge in Northfield
 - a. Emergency work needed to support the bridge
 - b. The only truss bridge left in Northfield that has not been structurally modified with steel girders.
 - c. Miles signed a contract for repairs on Monday and started work the following day. Due to area served, bridge could not be closed for repairs.
 - c. Salmond Covered Bridge
 - a. Scoping work completed by the state as to what needs to be done
 - b. Work will be done when Federal Funds are available (around 2030)
 - c. Miles to review to doublecheck that no imminent repairs need to be made.
 - d. Miller’s Run Covered Bridge
 - a. Headache bar has been hit multiple times. The decorative part has been removed to be fixed.
 - b. Jeanne provided photos of the damage
 - e. Cooley Covered Bridge
 - a. Car hit it and flipped inside the bridge landing upside down. Lots of broken glass

- b. An 18-wheeler attempted to go through bridge but realized it wouldn’t fit. It didn’t hit the bridge but required police to arrive to help turn the vehicle around.
- 6. Events/Fundraising Committee – Beth Brown-Limmer – Chair/Acting Chair
 - a. Just shy of \$8,000 net raised over the past few months - Important that we got our name recognition out there
 - b. Covered Bridge week - \$3,000 net
 - c. Rutland State Fair - \$1,100 net
 - d. Best of Vermont - \$629 net
 - e. Tunbridge World’s Fair – 4 days, had 14,000 visitors on Saturday
 - f. Tap to Table will be held on 10-5 in Cuttingsville – had 3,000 visitors last year.

Membership Committee – after lunch

IV. New Business

- 1. Bylaw changes
 - a. Donations of less than \$50 (see Appendix A – on website)
 - i. Motion made to accept and seconded. Passed unanimously
 - b. Creation of Assistant Treasurer position (see Appendix B – on website)
 - i. We have had multiple individuals do this before and are now trying to formalize the process
 - ii. Motion made to accept and seconded. Passed unanimously

V. Meeting adjourned at 12:11pm

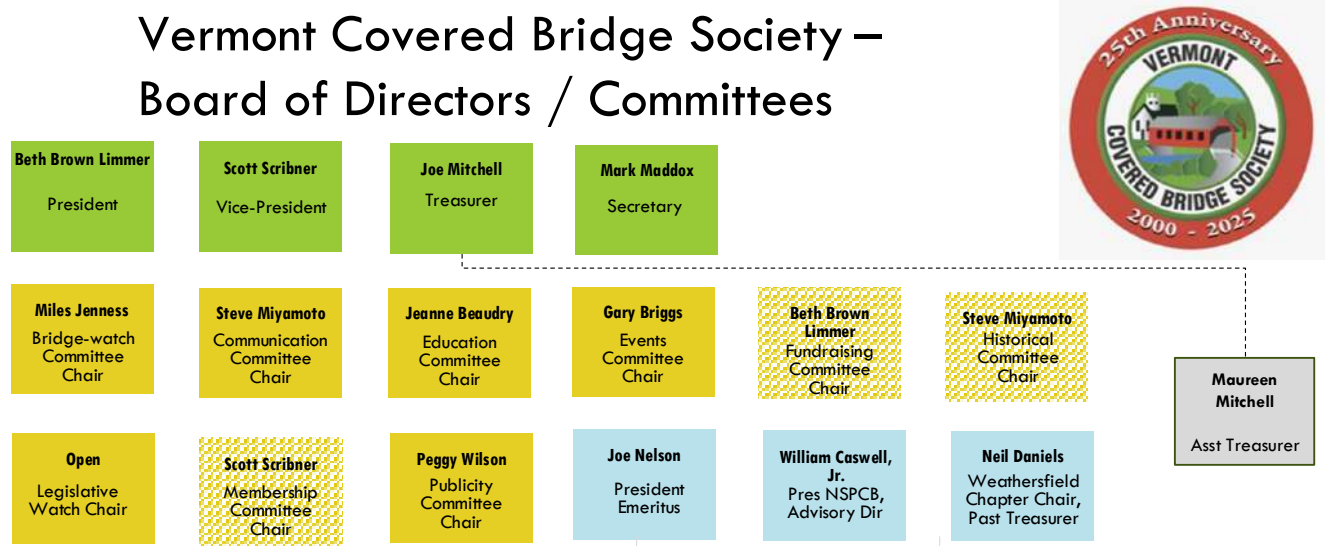
Afternoon session

- I. Recognition moments
 - a. Member of the year – Steve Brown
 - i. Collecting photos and formatting the calendar
 - ii. Journal project – all but one photo is his
 - iii. Provided Certificate and gave a lifetime membership
 - iv. Steve had just sent in a payment for a lifetime membership which will be converted to a donation.
 - c. Dan Monger – member since 2016, treasurer since 2019. Had been

- membership chair from 2018 until 1/1/2024 when Scott Scribner took over
 - i. Presented with a plaque recognizing his work
- 2. Membership Committee - Scott
 - a. 80 new members so far this year; goal is to get to 100 by the end of the year
 - b. 360 current membership – have cut members that haven’t paid.
 - c. Dues coming up at the end of year
 - i. If joined during coverage bridge week, membership good through 1-1-2027
 - ii. If joined after 9-30-25, membership is good through 1-1-2027
- iii. 127 lifetime members
- iv. Lifetime pins awarded to Michael Darche; additional members will be sent theirs
- 3. Reiterate that if members have any questions/concerns they should contact a board member or write in to make sure the board is aware of it.
- 4. Silent auction
- 5. Teacup auction
- 6. 11 members went on the caravan after the meeting.

VCBS Board of Directors

With the changes we’ve experienced throughout this year, below is the current organization chart for the Vermont Covered Bridge Society.



Board members may be contacted via Email: vermontcoveredbridgesociety@gmail.com or Phone: (802) 858-6069





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: OR Visit our website to join:

Vermont Covered Bridge Society
PO Box 83
Brandon, VT 05733



(Checks payable to Vermont Covered Bridge Society)

www.vermonthbridges.org/membership