

# THE BRIDGER

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society Newsletter – March 2026



## From the Editor

Welcome to the 104th edition of *The Bridger*!

In this edition, you'll find the teaser for our annual Spring meeting, information regarding celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States, a birthday, and information regarding our Bridge watch program.

It's been 2 years since I've taken over the editorship of *The Bridger*. It's been fun creating it, but it is now time for me to move on so this will be my last edition.

Wishing you all the best!

Cheers!

*Mark Maddox*

## President's Report

- by Beth Brown-Limmer

Greetings,

Sometime after the seventh VCBS board meeting of 2025, on November 20, as I mentally reviewed the year, I came to a conclusion: We have done enough for one year. After an extremely busy and successful year, I decided the best reward was a breather. So I canceled the December board meeting to give us all time to enjoy the holidays, and pursue other interests. I hope that all of you have had a similar hiatus of rest and renewal as we have endured the coldest winter in decades. But now, please, think Spring!

In early December, with Board approval, Gary Briggs and I wrote and sent letters of appeal to 49 towns in Vermont with historic covered bridges. This was Gary's wonderful idea: to ask for \$100 of support from each town in exchange for municipal membership in VCBS and other tangible benefits. Letters were mailed on December 1, 2025. There has been a good response thus far, with more expected after budgets are passed on Town Meeting Day.

Gary has also written a grant to secure funds from Vermont Humanities Council to purchase official 250th year flags and hanging hardware to be given by VCBS to the "CB towns" to install on their historic covered bridges. The grant, submitted on February 16, was accompanied by two letters of support (a town manager in a CB town and a sitting VT legislator) along with a graphic artist's depiction of a 250th flag flying from a covered bridge.

Awards will be made in early April and will cover 75% of the cost of this project. Town support monies will likely be used for the balance. VCBS members will be asked to deliver the flag kits to towns. If you can help, please come to 6/6/26 Spring Meeting where flags will be distributed, or contact me. Fingers crossed that this project will be funded! If it is, VCBS and the generosity of Vermont Humanities Council will be covered by the media in Vermont, and maybe even nationally.

On 2/6/26, a bill was introduced to VT House Transportation Committee (H. 810) which, if passed, will "increase the fines to those violating the established weight, height, and width limits for covered bridges in Vermont." The sponsor is Rep. Alicia Malay of Pittsford / Proctor. 23 House members signed on. It was enthusiastically received by the committee members. Some of their questions were answered by me via email on 2/13/26. I may testify to the committee this Spring. I am heartened that this bill also proposes "increased criminal penalties for arson or other intentional harm to a covered bridge." There is no money currently attached, but the Transportation Fund may provide "assistance to construct barriers or other measures to prevent vehicles that exceed limits from using covered bridges." If you support this bill, please contact your legislator, or Rep. Malay at [amalay@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:amalay@leg.state.vt.us)

**President:** Beth Brown Limmer, 2702 RTE 30, Sudbury, VT 05733, email: [melby5584@aol.com](mailto:melby5584@aol.com)

**Vice President:** Scott Scribner, 69 Park St, Brandon, VT 05733, email: [scottscribner@earthlink.net](mailto:scottscribner@earthlink.net)

**Secretary:** TBD

**Treasurer:** Joe Mitchell, 984 Burdeck St, Rotterdam, NY 12306, email: [vcbs.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:vcbs.treasurer@gmail.com)

At the 1/15/26 Board meeting, the sum of \$1,000 was approved to be sent to Town of Waitsfield for the design work being done by engineers for a clearance barrier (headache bar) for the Great Eddy Covered Bridge. As the oldest in the state, VCBS is hopeful that a somewhat universal design can be designed for it. This is certainly in alignment with our mission to preserve Vermont's historic covered bridges. The VCBS budget for 2026 was also approved on 1/15/26. It is \$2,000 LESS than 2025 budget. Is that because we are planning to do less? Of course not! The designation by Gov. Scott of August 1-8, 2026 as Covered Bridge Week in Vermont is pending. Many events are being planned and new members, businesses, and organizations are stepping up to participate. The new host of VCBS podcast (aired on public access TV and radio in VT), Phill Gatenby of Brattleboro, has released his first episode and awaits the schedule of CB Wk events for inclusion in a future one.

The full schedule of Covered Bridge Week events will be in the next issue of this newsletter, on our website ([vermontbridges.org](http://vermontbridges.org)) and on the VT Tourism and Marketing website ([plan.vermontvacation.com](http://plan.vermontvacation.com)). The Brattleboro event on Thur. August 6 is partially supported by a grant written by Brattleboro Garden and Art Club. I wrote a letter of support to accompany it. Creamery Covered Bridge will be the sight for this with film viewing, music, food, and fun. Maple Monday will return on August 3 with new covered bridges and maple producers involved. Have an idea for your community? Let us know!

If you are near Tunbridge on Sunday, March 15, 2026, please drop by the library at 1:30. I was asked last September (while at the Tunbridge World's Fair with VCBS booth) to speak for their Sunday Series they do during January, February, and March. It's one way to stave off cabin fever! I look forward this opportunity to talk about Vermont covered bridges located outside of Orange County, as requested.

In closing, I want to convey my thanks to two VCBS members: Diane Sullivan and Mark Maddox. Diane served as the shipping clerk of online store merchandise from October 1, 2023 until January 1, 2026. Mark served as VCBS Secretary and director from December 21, 2023 until February 14, 2026. You may have met Mark at one of the fairs or festivals in 2024 and 2025. Along with being the newsletter editor for the last nine issues he has handled several administrative tasks and been a member of the VCBS Speaker's Bureau, for two groups in 2024, one in 2025, and one just last month on 1/29/26 in Stowe. I wish both Diane and Mark happy trails with many beautiful covered bridges along the way.

See you all in Lunenburg, Vermont on Sat. June 6, 2026 for the Spring Meeting! Meet and greet is from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. RSVP to Gary at [townclerk@lunenburg-gilmanvt.gov](mailto:townclerk@lunenburg-gilmanvt.gov) to get your lunch free

## Save the Date!

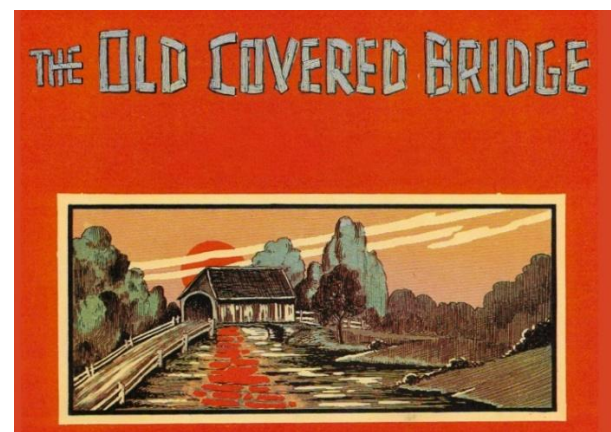
- by Gary Briggs

### Spring Meeting Tease

This year's Spring Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 6th in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont in the Town of Lunenburg, home to the historic Mount Orne Covered Bridge. Some of you may be scratching your head saying, "where's Lunenburg"? The Spring VCBS meeting is the perfect time to find out! Lunenburg is the largest community in Essex County. In the late 1800s, up to the early 1940s,

Lunenburg was a regional center for agriculture, trade, tourism and community life in the Northeast Kingdom. It was home to the historic Heights House Hotel and Bowker's General Store which attracted tourists from all over New England. The Great Fire of 1943 devastated the Town, burning the Heights House, Bowker's General Store, and numerous residential homes, including my

grandparents original homestead. Of course, we've recovered from that tragedy, and we can't wait to welcome VCBS covered bridge enthusiasts to Lunenburg in June.



The Spring meeting will be held at the former Congregational Church which was restored as a non-denominational meeting space in 2008 by our Top of the Common organization. The building boasts its original hardwood walled interior and stained-glass windows. Top of the Common leaders are thrilled to welcome VCBS and have graciously offered use of the building free of charge. The building is seasonally open as it does not currently have a heating system so if it looks to be a chilly day on June 6th, bring a sweatshirt or jacket.

Registration will begin at 9:30 am and the Spring meeting will feature regular occurring events, including the business meeting starting at 10:15 am. Our special Covered Bridge Box Lunch will be served at the adjacent Lunenburg Elementary School and, this year, lunch will be free to anyone who RSVPs as attending the Spring meeting by May 25th. Our special keynote speaker will be Marvin Bubie, author of *On the Trail of Henry Hudson, Celebrating the American Revolution*, and his newest book on covered bridges which will be released in late Spring.

But the Spring meeting will be so much more, including an exciting multi-prize raffle featuring covered bridge memorabilia and gift certificates from some of your favorite places to shop or visit. We'll have covered bridge trivia, surprises and tours of the surrounding covered bridges in Vermont and New Hampshire. We hope you'll come spend a wonderful day in Lunenburg and commune with your fellow covered bridge enthusiasts.

Lunenburg is located on Route 2, 23 miles east of St. Johnsbury.

- Lunenburg is just over an hour's drive from Newport via I91 south to St. Johnsbury and then Route 2 east to Lunenburg;
- an hour and 20 minutes from White River Junction, up I91 to St. Johnsbury and then Route 2 east to Lunenburg;
- a scenic hour's drive from Island Pond via VT 105 south through Guildhall and onto Route 2 west to Lunenburg;
- 2 hours and 20 minutes from Brattleboro up I91 to St. Johnsbury and then Route 2 east to Lunenburg; and

- 2 hours from Burlington via I89 south to Route 2 in Montpelier and then east to Lunenburg (approx. an hour and 10-minute drive from Montpelier).



It's the start of high summer season in the Northeast Kingdom, but we've arranged a special VCBS discounted rate of \$164.95 for Friday, June 5th and \$194.99 for Saturday, June 6th at the Coos County Motor Inn in nearby Lancaster, NH (5 miles from Lunenburg) and a rate of \$129.99 at the Cabot Motor Inn in Lancaster (8 miles from Lunenburg). We've also arranged for a VCBS rate of \$50/campsite at Alpine Village Campground in nearby Concord, VT (8 miles from Lunenburg).

We can't wait to see you in Lunenburg in June!

Gary Briggs  
Events Committee Chair

**Breaking News:** We're thrilled to announce that NEK Broadband will co-sponsor the Spring Meeting and we thank them for their support.



## Committee Reports

### Communication Committee – Steve Miyamoto

The new website is progressing along. Peggy's team continues to make progress on the design. I recently met with her web developer. We covered some

implementation details of various aspects of the new and current websites.

FYI: The phase 1 design of the new website references some of the content from our current website. All referenced content has been edited to work directly with the new website. This means that there will be no linkbacks to the current site. The content will look the same, but all navigation links will point to within the new website. Peggy can provide additional information as required.

## Historical Committee – Steve Miyamoto

A new Archives project is in development. When it is completed, it will contain our archive collections online. This is a large-scale project that will take some time to complete. I'll make an announcement once some of the information is available.

The idea for this project came about a few years ago while attending a session at the Vermont Historical Society in Barre. The software discussed was called Collective Access. This is an open-source project that is used worldwide. The good news is that it is free to use. We still incur hosting charges, but we did not have to purchase the software.

So far, the hosting has been secured, and the software is installed on the host. I am slowly configuring the software for our needs. It's a bit of a back-burner project, but I hope to have some more progress by the time the next newsletter comes around.

## Membership Committee – Scott Scribner

In last year's quest to add 100 new members, we ended 2025 with a total of 120 new members. I was excited and immediately thought, should we go for 200 in 2026? Not sure how doable that is, but it is always good to raise the bar high. So far in 2026 we have added 10 new members. Please go out and tell as many people as you can about us and let's see how close to that 200 new members we can get. Let's all now take this time to welcome the list of new members that joined since the last newsletter.

Jesse Brisson  
 Craig & Shirley Peverly  
 Kevn Collis  
 Faith Risany  
 Teresa Darling & Mike Jurkowski  
 Stephen Roth  
 Andrew Laurie Deering

Jill Sabotka  
 Pam & Steve Douglas  
 Tim & Mary Shields  
 Nancy & Edward Duvinski  
 Susanne Terrill  
 James Fitzpatrick  
 Bill & Elaine Trutor  
 Renee Gordon & Matthew Clarrage  
 Clayton Trutor  
 Janet & Peter Halpin  
 Jonathan & Heather Trutor  
 Scott Johnson  
 Vermont Department of Historic Preservation  
 Paul & Bea Laramie  
 Town of Warren  
 Town of Pittsford  
 Town of Windsor

Just a reminder, an email was sent out to everyone because the 2026 dues are due. If you have questions about your dues, you can email me at [scottscribner@earthlink.net](mailto:scottscribner@earthlink.net) and I will respond accordingly. You are all greatly appreciated! Let's make 2026 a great year!

Scott E. Scribner – VP and Membership Chairperson

## Education Committee – Jeanne Beaudry

### Covered Bridge Art, poster contest.

Information about our 2026 contest has been added to our website. High School Art Teachers will be able to go to the link and submit their students' entries. The deadline to submit is April 24th, with the entries for first through fourth place winners announced on the website on May 15th. I continue to work on the fourth-grade lesson plans to introduce covered bridges to students. I welcome any member who might be interested in spreading the good word about covered bridges to students, to email me at [vcbs.education@vermontbridges.org](mailto:vcbs.education@vermontbridges.org)

Submitted by Jeanne Beaudry  
 Education Committee Chair

## Events Committee – Gary Briggs

I'm excited to have joined the VCBS Board in November 2025 and have assumed the role of Events Chair. I'm even more excited to note that the Spring 2026 VCBS meeting will be held in my hometown of Lunenburg on Saturday, June 6th. As a former Select Board member and the current Town Clerk and Treasurer in Lunenburg, I can't

wait to highlight our community and southern Essex County. Lunenburg is home to the historic Mt. Orne Covered Bridge which we'll be sure to tour during the Spring meeting.

I wanted to highlight a great project VCBS is championing to launch in April, hopefully supported by grant funding from Vermont Humanities. VCBS submitted a Project Grant application in February seeking \$5,000 in funding for the purchase of 90 official America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Flags, poles and mounting hardware. Our goal is to provide a free flag set(s) to every Town with an historic covered bridge(s) to be mounted and displayed on their bridge(s) from June 2026 through December 2027. In most communities, the flags would be installed by the road crew. Vermont's historic bridges have played a significant role in our country's 250 years, and we can't think of a better way to celebrate these structures, and the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our country, by flying an official Anniversary flag on every bridge.

We'll receive a decision on our grant application in April. The total cost of the project is \$6,615. If grant funded, VCBS will secure additional monies via grants and donations or cover the additional unfunded portion of \$1,615 from existing funds to assure the project happens.

In other news, VCBS's Covered Bridge Week 2026 will take place from August 1st through 8th, with the return of the very popular Maple Monday at select historic covered bridges throughout the state. Keep up to date with everything about Covered Bridge Week via our website, <https://www.vermontbridges.org/> or watch for a MailChimp email from VCBS as we get closer to August.

Did you know that VCBS exhibits at community events throughout the year? Be sure to look for VCBS's table at an event near you in 2026. Are there events in your area where you think VCBS would be a welcome vendor? Let us know! Would you like to volunteer to staff a vendor table at one of the many events we attend? We're always looking for volunteers. Would your community like to host the annual Fall VCBS meeting in September/ October 2026? Please reach out to [vermontcoveredbridgesociety@gmail.com](mailto:vermontcoveredbridgesociety@gmail.com) to share any thoughts you have on how VCBS can continue our mission of educating and supporting preservation and restoration of the historic covered bridges of Vermont.

Respectfully Submitted  
Gary Briggs  
Events Committee Chair

## Fundraising Committee- Beth Brown-Limmer

Spring is on its way, and along with it will be the renewal of our spirits and our energy for all things to do with fundraising. There was one final event in December, Brandon's Moonlight Madness, held on Dec 3 and 11, 2025, with sales of \$138.00 and \$165.00, respectively. Scott and Barbara Scribner donated the vendor fee and manned the booth, and I thank them for both.

Overall, 2025 was a fantastic year for VCBS fundraising! Sales of merchandise at events and online store totaled \$17,533.30! Add to that, the total donations of \$5,199.98 with \$ 4,240.96 earmarked for the Save-a-Bridge Fund (exclusively used for repairs and maintenance of covered bridges). And one more number that underscores the work of a great fundraising team: Net profit in 2025: \$ 7,375.45. If you have sales chops and enthusiasm, come join the fun!

To recap briefly, the fundraising events in 2025 started on August 2 with the inaugural year of Covered Bridge Week in Vermont when there were 10 events and \$3,000 was raised. Also in August was the State Fair at Rutland and the Best of Vermont Festival in Ludlow. September brought our debut at Tunbridge World's Fair and then 4th year at the Chester Festival on the Green. First time attendance at Tap to Table on October 5, Pittsford Craft Show in November, and Moonlight Madness in Brandon in December rounded out the five month "sales season".

Many VCBS members have volunteered their time, gas, oil, and paid their own expenses to help on these occasions. The list is getting too long for me to name names without fear of leaving someone out. (That's a nice problem to have, eh?) Please know that if you contributed, you are appreciated!

Now, let's preview a bit for 2026. I sent in the preliminary application for Chester Festival on February 13. They have moved it off the Chester Green to a large field by the Legion, and the vendors will be chosen sometime in April from the pool of applications. If VCBS is chosen, then we can decide who can help on those two days, Sept 19 and 20. The complicating factor is that Tunbridge World's Fair is Sept 17 - 20 this year. But there's time to decide what to do as the year unfolds.

Events for 2026 Covered Bridge Week are in the planning phase. August 1 - 8 is a good week to find an event in your neck to the woods to attend or help with. More on this in June newsletter.

For now, think Spring! Did I mention that the 2027 VCBS calendar is about ready to go to the printer, and new

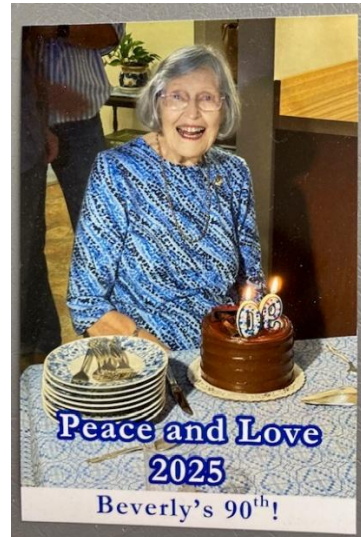
merchandise will be rolled out at the June 6 meeting in Lunenburg! See you there!

## Celebrations

### Happy 90th Birthday to Beverly Delaney!!

Beverly and her husband Bill (deceased) joined the VCBS as life members many years ago. Formerly of Craftsbury, she now resides in NJ. She turned 90 on September 23, 2025. One of her hobbies is reading *the Bridger* from cover to cover!

Congratulations Beverly!



## Bridges in the News

### Sanborn Covered Bridge Restoration Project: Update - by Nicole Gratton

**January 24, 2026** – The Sanborn Covered Bridge project progresses quietly and slowly. After the damaging flooding of 2024, the bridge was moved off of the Passumpsic River and has been housed on the Town owned parcel located to the south. Since that time, the engineering team has worked through a new design for the bridge, bringing the floor of the bridge above the 500-year flood event, safeguarding the structure from devastation in the future.



The project has received clearance from 4 of the 5 federal funding partners, has secured the permits required for the project, and is in the final stage of obtaining an extended Construction and Maintenance easement on the north

side of the bridge. The project is expected to go out to bid in March 2026. Once bids are received, the Town will determine if the project can happen with the funds that have been secured for the project.

Donations to the Sanborn Covered Bridge project are still being accepted and are greatly appreciated. The Town of Lyndon will determine whether the project can move forward once bids are received.

Donations can be sent to  
Town of Lyndon  
Attn: Dawn Dwyer  
Treasurer  
P.O. Box 167  
Lyndonville, VT 05851

Please note "Sanborn CB Project" in the memo section of the check.

Further information can be provided by contacting Nicole Gratton at the [Preservation Trust of Vermont](#). Our thanks to Nicole for providing this update. We also thank the [Town of Lyndon](#) for continuing to collect funds toward this project.

Original article found at:  
[https://www.vermontbridges.org/news\\_items\\_2026/vermont/sanborn-cb-update.shtml](https://www.vermontbridges.org/news_items_2026/vermont/sanborn-cb-update.shtml)

## Sanborn Bridge Reconstruction Will Require Act 250 Permit

Paul Hayes [phayes@littletonrecord.com](mailto:phayes@littletonrecord.com) Staff Writer Feb 7, 2026. Updated Feb 8, 2026

**LYNDON** – State officials have ruled that reconstruction of the Sanborn Covered Bridge will require an Act 250 permit, citing design changes and potential impacts tied to a nearby, contested development along the Passumpsic River.



Timber-frame builders Vermont Heavy Timber take measurements to protect the Sanborn Covered Bridge against flooding on Thursday, Aug. 8, 2024. The work was done on an emergency basis ahead of Tropical Storm Debby.  
(Photo by Paul Hayes)

In a jurisdictional opinion dated Feb. 3, District 7 coordinator Kevin Anderson said the bridge project represents a “material change” to land already under Act 250 review – the former Lyn-Burke Motel property at the north end of the bridge – triggering Act 250 oversight.

Anderson also concluded the project would have “a significant impact” on river management plans connected to a proposed gas station and mini-mart planned for the former motel site at 791 Main St. The jurisdictional opinion was requested by the town’s Zoning Administrator, Jon Prue.

The ruling adds a new layer of review to a bridge restoration project that has already undergone multiple revisions following catastrophic flooding in July 2024, when the swollen Passumpsic River bowed the structure, broke one abutment, and nearly swept the bridge away. The bridge was later disassembled and removed to prevent further damage while restoration plans were reevaluated.

The Development Review Board approved revised bridge plans in November. The board approved an earlier version of the project in May 2024, but engineers redesigned it after the flood to raise the bridge and strengthen its abutments.

Select Board Chair Chris Thompson told the board in November the new design would raise the bridge four feet – one foot above the 500-year flood level – compared with the earlier plan to raise it about 2.5 feet to meet the 100-year flood standard.

“The town is presenting to you tonight a better project than the one that your legislative body approved unanimously about a year and a half ago,” Thompson said at the time. “This version of the design provides greater protection for not only the bridge itself, but also for the community, by increasing flood resilience in the area around the bridge.”

At the same time, state environmental regulators continue to challenge plans for a \$4 million gas station and mini-mart proposed for the former Lyn-Burke Motel property at the north end of the bridge, a flood-prone site at the intersection of Routes 5, 114 and 122.

Late last year, the Agency of Natural Resources appealed a partial Act 250 ruling by the District 7 Environmental Commission that found the project would likely meet floodway and stream-impact criteria. ANR disputed the commission’s conclusion that the development “will not endanger the health, safety, or welfare of the public or of adjoining landowners ... and will not cause or contribute to fluvial erosion.”

The appeal has put on hold landowner Louis “Joe” Buzzi’s plans to build a 4,500-square-foot mini-mart, 16 parking spaces, a 3,100-square-foot gas island with eight pumps, and a 576-square-foot diesel island on the two-acre parcel immediately north of the bridge. Buzzi demolished the former motel in 2021 after purchasing the property in 2018.

Rebuilding the north abutment of the Sanborn Covered Bridge would impact flood mitigation aspects of the gas station proposal, the Feb. 3 jurisdictional opinion said. Built in 1869 and moved to its current location over the Passumpsic River in 1960, the Sanborn Covered Bridge was purchased by the town in 2022 along with a two-acre parcel on the south end.

The restoration project carries a \$2.2 million budget set two years ago that has not been updated to reflect inflation or design changes. Officials have warned that higher-than-expected bids could force the town to scale

back or delay construction, with much of the funding expected to come from grants.

Editor's note: Information reprinted with permission from the [Caledonian Record Publishing Company, Inc.](#)

Original article found at:

[https://www.vermontbridges.org/news\\_items\\_2026/vermont/sanborn\\_cb\\_project\\_needs\\_act-250.shtml](https://www.vermontbridges.org/news_items_2026/vermont/sanborn_cb_project_needs_act-250.shtml)

### Covered Bridge Bill would help towns

by Vermont Daily Chronicle staff February 11, 2026

Are covered bridges an important part of Vermont's cultural heritage and should the state play a larger role in helping protect them?



On Friday, the House Committee on Transportation was introduced to H.810, a new bill sponsored by Representative Alicia Malay (R/D-Rutland 8) that aims to help municipalities manage the safety of their covered bridges. Unfortunately, this help comes too late for some towns that have experienced tragedies for their local bridges.

Her bill directs the Agency of Transportation to provide assistance to municipalities in establishing appropriate limits for weight, height, and width for covered bridges. The bill also directs the Agency to help towns with barriers or other strategies to prevent vehicle crossings that don't

conform with those limits, and to help towns obtain grants for those barriers. Lastly, the bill proposes to increase criminal penalties for arson or intentional damages made to covered bridges.

According to Malay, the Vermont Covered Bridge Society brought the need to her attention as many towns, even those that often have damage to their bridges, were reluctant to post signage to prevent collisions as the towns didn't know if they were allowed. Her bill intends to fill that gap in education and help keep their bridges safe.

Vermont has the highest concentration of early 20th and 19th century covered bridges in the country, and the highest amount per capita, even though there are under 100 left in the state. As Malay explained to the committee, towns face constant worry of their historic covered bridges being damaged. Maintenance and rebuilding costs are costly and usually mean that a destroyed bridge will be replaced by a cheaper one—which isn't usually as aesthetically pleasing.

The town of Troy in the Northeast Kingdom experienced such an event in 2021. The bridge, 88 feet long and over a century old, was quickly engulfed in flames when a damaged snowmobile caught fire inside the bridge. The fire department was unable to save the structure which ultimately collapsed into the river and shut down traffic until the town was able to construct a temporary bridge. The town was unable to raise the funds and the temporary bridge in Troy became permanent.

Editors note: Information reprinted with permission from the Vermont Daily Chronicle.

You can follow the status of H.810 by going to this link on the Vermont General Assembly website:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2026/H.810>

Original article found at:

[https://www.vermontbridges.org/news\\_items\\_2026/vermont/covered-bridge-bill-VDC-021126.shtml](https://www.vermontbridges.org/news_items_2026/vermont/covered-bridge-bill-VDC-021126.shtml)

## Bridge-watch Program

Most of the covered bridges in Vermont are owned and maintained by the towns. Our role is to watch these bridges to see that they are properly maintained and protected. For this we have instituted the **Bridge-watch**

**Program.** All of our members are encouraged to participate in Bridge-watch.

The following lists Vermont's Covered Bridges and their assigned bridge watcher. Is there a bridge near you that

doesn't have a watcher and you'd like to volunteer? To volunteer or get more information, please contact us at [vermontcoveredbridgesociety@gmail.com](mailto:vermontcoveredbridgesociety@gmail.com)

County/Towns	Bridge (s)	Bridge Watcher
<b>Addison</b> /East Shoreham	East Shoreham Railroad (off road)	Paul & Beth Limmer
Middlebury	Pulp Mill, Halpin	Paul & Beth Limmer
Ferrisburg	Spade Farm (off road-private?)	Mike Santosusso
<b>Bennington</b> /Arlington	Bridge at the Green	
Bennington	Henry, Paper Mill, Silk	
Sunderland	Chiselville	
<b>Caledonia</b> /Danville	Greenbanks Hollow	Marcel & Jeanne Beaudry
Lyndonville	Miller's Run, Chamberlain	Marcel & Jeanne Beaudry
	Sanborn (dismantled offroad)	
	Randall (off road), Schoolhouse (off road)	
<b>Chittenden</b> /Charlotte	Holmes (Lake Shore), Sequin, Quillan	Mike Santosusso
Shelburne	Shelburne Museum (off road private)	Mike Santosusso
Westford	Brown's River	
<b>Essex</b> /Lemington	Columbia	NH DOT
Lunenburg	Mount Orne	Chris Rentz <a href="mailto:crentz56@icloud.com">crentz56@icloud.com</a>
<b>Franklin</b> / Enosburg	Hopkins	
East Fairfield	East Fairfield	
Fairfax	Maple Street/Village	
Montgomery	Creamery/West Hill, Fuller, Hutchins,	
	Longley, Comstock	
<b>Lamoille</b> /Belvidere	Lumber Mill, Morgan	<a href="mailto:eric@cambridgevt.org">eric@cambridgevt.org</a>

Cambridge	Grist Mill, Gates Farm (off road private)	<a href="mailto:eric@cambridgevt.org">eric@cambridgevt.org</a>
Jeffersonville	Cambridge Junction	<a href="mailto:eric@cambridgevt.org">eric@cambridgevt.org</a>
Johnson	Power House, Scribner	Sid and Marian Nichols
Morristown	Red	Sid and Marian Nichols
Stowe	Emily's/Gold Brook	Sid and Marian Nichols
Waterville	Church, Jaynes, Montgomery	<a href="mailto:eric@cambridgevt.org">eric@cambridgevt.org</a>
Wolcott	Fisher Railroad (off road)	
<b>Orange/Chelsea</b>	Moxley	
Randolph	Braley, Kingsbury/Hyde, Gifford	cjstumpf@gmail.com
Thetford	Union/Village, Sayres	
Tunbridge	Flint, Larkin, Mill, Cilley, Howe	
<b>Orleans/Irasburg Coventry</b>	Orne	Marcel & Jeanne Beaudry
Irasburg	Lord's Creek (off road private)	Marcel & Jeanne Beaudry
<b>Rutland/Brandon</b>	Sanderson	Paul & Beth Limmer
East Clarendon	Kingsley	Paul & Beth Limmer
Pittsford	Depot, Cooley, Hammond, Gorham	Paul & Beth Limmer
Shrewsbury	Brown	Paul & Beth Limmer
<b>Washington/Barre</b>	Robbins Nest (private)	Private
Cabot	AM Foster (private)	Private
East Montpelier	Coburn	
Marshfield	Martin	
Northfield	Moseley, Station, Slaughter House, Lower Cox, Upper Cox	John Knox
Waitsfield	Village/Eddy, Pine Brook	
Warren	Warren	
<b>Windham/Brattleboro</b>	Creamery	Phill Gatenby

Grafton	Kidder Hill	
Guildford	Green River	
Newfane	Williamsville	Phill Gatenby
Rockingham	Hall, Worrall, Bartonsville,	
	Victorian Village (off road private)	Private
Townshend	Scott	Phill Gatenby
West Dummerston	West Dummerston	Phil Gatenby
<b>Windsor/Hartland</b>	Martin's Mill, Willard, Willard Twin	
Springfield	Baltimore	
Weathersfield	Salmond, Downers	
	Stoughton (off road)	
Windsor	Bests, Bowers,	
	Cornish/Windsor	NH DOT
Woodstock	Lincoln, Middle, Taftsville	

## Board of Directors Meetings

Abbreviated notes from January 15, 2026. Complete notes can be found online under Members Portal.

**Item 1: Officer Reports**

- a. **Presidents Report** – Beth
  - a. Bylaw changes – need adhoc committee to review
  - b. Peter Chapin wants to pay the cost of the Jeffersonville PO box
  - c. Organization structure changes – might include in the bylaws discussion
  - d. Reimbursement policy and procedure
  - e. Website review
  - f. Letter for covered bridge – sent the first of December 3 towns have provided support – Warren, Waterville, Pittsford
  - g. Working on CB week proclamation for 2026
  - h. My Place hotel in Randolph has put together a rate plan for people to stay for Covered Bridge Week
  - i. Media request from AARP – to include in magazine article
  - j. Had a request from Notch Above Tours company to set up tour in November
- b. **Vice-President Report** – Scott – see membership

- c. **Treasurer’s Report** – Joe
  - a. Summary of 2025
  - b. 2026 budget proposal
    - i. Resolution: Motion to approve the budget for 2026, seconded and approved
- d. **Secretary’s Report** – Mark
  - a. New Speakers’ bureau requests
    - i. Stowe Rotary - 1-29-2026
  - b. Mailchimp changing structure as of February 17. Free version will no longer provide what we need.

**Item 2: Committee Reports -**

- a. Events – Gary
  - i. Proposal for 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary flags
    1. All bridges need to participate
    2. \$6,615 is the total budget
    3. Is this an initiative that the VCBS wants to go forward with if they don’t get the \$5000 grant (deadline 2-18, should hear by mid-April)?
    4. Other options considered if grant not awarded.

5. Motion: to go forth with the proposal to submit to the humanities council for \$5000 grant to buy flags
  - ii. Spring meeting 6-6-26
    1. Asked NE Kingdom broadband to be a sponsor for the meeting
    2. Discount rate for a hotel in Lancaster
    3. Checking discounted rates at a local campground
    4. Looking into cost of renting school bus for the caravan to covered bridges
    5. Discussed doing a raffle or silent auction – take offline
  - b. Fundraising – Beth
    - i. Lots of inventory
    - ii. Steve Brown beginning work on 2027 calendars
  - c. Publicity – Peggy (via email)
    - i. Trademark update
      1. The trademark submitted on October 31. approximately 3 months for a response
    - ii. Publicity chair report, the BOD and the education committee press releases were submitted to the press in Nov and Jan.
    - iii. Website work
      1. second proof for review within the next 3 weeks. Editing has already begun.
  - d. Bridge Watch – Miles
    - i. Prep work done for Brown’s River Covered Bridge in Westford
    - ii. Inspected Brown Covered Bridge in Shrewsbury
      1. Holes in roof/rot
      2. Proposals - (e.g. repair existing slates/holes, remove slates and redo, replace slate with standing seam, etc.)
      3. Hammond Covered Bridge reviewed for repairs
      4. Other bridges in Pittsford looked good
    - iii. Headache bars – Town of Waitsfield
      1. Proposal to design and install for the Great Eddy CB
      2. Resolution: Motion to donate \$1000 to town of Waitsfield to be used to design a headache bar - design would be owned by VCBS. – Seconded and approved.
  - iv. Timber for Transit grant
    1. Overseen by Northern Border Regional Commission
    2. Use local timber products to support transit infrastructure
    3. Towns of Troy and Salisbury may apply for a grant
  - v. Discussed creating trade school to train new bridgewrights
  - e. Education – Jeanne
    - i. 4th grade Covered Bridge plans, will sent to grade 4 teachers throughout Vermont and forward them to Bill Caswell as an example of lesson plans to be used by people in the NSPCB.
    - ii. 4H State Day - Saturday May 9th at the Davis Campus Center at UVM in Burlington,.
    - iii. Derby Elementary School - in April of 2026 to work with sixth graders
  - f. Communications – Steve (technical issues/ran out of time)
  - g. Historical – Steve (technical issues/ran out of time)
  - h. Membership – Scott
    - i. Added 120 new members in 2025 – now at 338 members; an addition 136 that may be purged; 129 lifetime members (55 receive hardcopy newsletters)
      1. Membership benefits meeting held to discuss what we offer Possible update to Member website to list benefits
- When adding new members, we would like to no longer offer printed newsletters

### Item 3: New items

1. Reimbursement to Steve for QR code
  - a. Resolution: Motion - Use the \$170 budget for the QR Code generator listed in the budget to reimburse for the QR Code from 10-31-2025 to 10-31-2026.
2. Committee consolidation
  - a. Communication, Marketing and Publicity potentially under one umbrella
3. Extra charge on memberships through PayPal?
  - a. PayPal fees paid by the person joining via the website, In person there is no fee
  - b. **PayPal's Policy**: PayPal's user agreement prohibits merchants from adding a surcharge or extra fee for accepting PayPal as a payment method.
  - c. Action Item: Prices online will need to be changed to match the prices in the brochure

## VCBS 2025 TREASURER REPORT

<b>REVENUE:</b>	<u>Gross</u>	<u>CC Fees</u>	<u>Net</u>
<b>Donations Total</b>	<b>\$5,242.60</b>	<b>\$42.72</b>	<b>\$5,199.88</b>
General	\$185.35	\$1.43	\$183.92
Save a Bridge Fund (Restricted)	\$4,282.25	\$41.29	\$4,240.96
Restricted-Other	\$775.00	\$--	\$775.00
<b>Membership Due Total</b>	<b>\$4,373.00</b>	<b>\$73.11</b>	<b>\$4,299.89</b>
Yearly Dues	\$2,348.00	\$42.85	\$2,305.15
Life Member Dues	\$2,025.00	\$30.26	\$1,994.74
<b>Sales Total</b>	<b>\$17,718.95</b>	<b>\$185.65</b>	<b>\$17,533.30</b>
Events/General	\$14,276.30	\$103.97	\$14,172.33
Online	\$1,602.65	\$81.68	\$1,520.97
Banners	\$1,840.00	\$--	\$1,840.00
<b>Interest</b>	<b>\$295.84</b>	<b>\$--</b>	<b>\$295.84</b>
General	\$94.72	\$--	\$94.72
Save a Bridge Fund	\$201.12	\$--	\$201.12
<b>CC Points and Rewards</b>	<b>\$301.03</b>	<b>\$--</b>	<b>\$301.03</b>
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$27,931.42</b>	<b>\$301.48</b>	<b>\$27,629.94</b>
Save a Bridge Fund (Restricted)			\$4,442.08

**EXPENSES:**

Board of Directors (Burr Resource Center Donation)	\$500.00
Office Administration	\$3,431.37
<i>Supplies, Postage, PO Box</i>	\$374.57
<i>Website, Software</i>	\$1,147.09
<i>Insurance</i>	\$1,180.71
<i>Trademark Expenses</i>	\$749.00
Bridge Watch Committee	\$0.00
Legislation Watch Committee	\$0.00
Historical Committee (Archival Storage)	\$1,434.80
Communications Committee	\$8.52
Publicity Committee	\$2,903.00
<i>Banner Expenses</i>	\$2,550.00
<i>Other</i>	\$353.00
Membership Committee	\$643.60
Events Committee	\$908.49
Fund Raising Committee	\$9,836.79
<i>Shipping, Postage</i>	\$418.20
<i>Venue, Membership Fees</i>	\$865.10
<i>Purchases, Merchandise</i>	\$5,390.71
<i>Commissioned Sale Items</i>	\$105.00
<i>Calendar Expenses</i>	\$3,057.78
Education Committee	\$387.92
Other (\$200 Restricted Donation for CB Decorations)	\$200.00

**Total Expenses:** \$20,254.49

**Net Profit:** \$7,375.45

Save a Bridge Fund (Restricted) \$4,442.08

	<b>1/1/2025</b>	<b>12/30/2025</b>
Union Bank Checking Account	\$28,599.13	\$20,824.73
Union Bank CD Account	\$--	\$7,648.35
Live Oak Bank Savings Account	\$--	\$6,647.49
PayPal	\$63.01	\$931.22
<b>Total Cash Assets</b>	<b>\$28,662.14</b>	<b>\$36,051.79</b>
<i>Save a Bridge Fund (Restricted)</i>	\$15,951.01	\$20,374.09

Cash banking accounts, no fees charged. VCBS is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization.



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.vermontbridges.org/membership](http://www.vermontbridges.org/membership)