

THE BRIDGER



The Vermont Covered Bridge Society Newsletter – Summer 2026

From the Editor

Welcome to the 105th edition of *The Bridger*!

Well, there has been no shortage of changes here at the Vermont Covered Bridge Society. We currently need a Newsletter Editor. We thank Mark Maddox for his work over the past two years.

If you like to volunteer for this position, we would welcome you! Computer skills and an eye for graphic design are helpful. Contact Steve Miyamoto for more information. (vcbs.communications@vermontbridges.org)

For me, it's been 20 years since I was the editor of *The Bridger*. So much has changed since 2006. The VCBS has

seen many of the founding and early members no longer with us. However, the VCBS continues to promote Vermont's covered bridges.

Thanks to everyone, past and present, who have made the VCBS what it is today. We're also looking towards the next generation of bridgers who will carry the mission forward.

Yours in bridging,
Steve Miyamoto

President's Report

by Beth Brown-Limmer

Greetings members,

In this season of fresh energy and longer days, there is great momentum building within the VCBS! After the very long and cold winter in Vermont, those of us who endured its entirety deserve a medal for "just plain grit". Don't you agree?

But now we have the summer in our sights, and there are some wonderful opportunities to gather, enjoy each other, and parade our combined passion for Vermont's historic covered bridges! Let's start on **Saturday, June 6, 2026** at the **Spring Meeting in Lunenburg!** See Gary's Events Report in this newsletter for the details, and don't forget to RSVP for a free lunch! The VCBS is counting on our members to help deliver the flag kits and banners, so please come pick them up. Some members have already volunteered for this chore, and I thank you.

After the meeting, the next big thing will be the second annual **Covered Bridge Week in Vermont, Saturday, August 1 through Saturday, August 8, 2026**. By the time you read this, the proclamation and designation will be in my hands from Governor Scott. I hope to get him to appear at one of the many events during CB Week this year. The final schedule of events is in the pipeline and will come to you via email from Constant Contact, be on the VCBS website, and be on the VT Tourism and Marketing website. Gary and I will be on the WCAX-TV ***Across the Fence*** show in

July, and the VCBS podcast with Phill Gatenby in July will also feature the schedule.

The campaign to increase the number of municipal members in VCBS is yielding great success. Since the appeal letter in December 2025 and recent considerable personal follow-up by Gary and me, one-third of the CB towns in Vermont are now VCBS members! This is incredible progress towards my vision of a Town – VCBS Coalition. Member towns, to date, are: Pittsford, Clarendon, Shrewsbury (Rutland County), Waitsfield, Warren (Washington Co), Lunenburg and Lemington (Essex Co), Waterville, Belvidere, and Johnson (Lamoille Co), and Windsor, Brattleboro, Sunderland, and Danville. I am attending the West Windsor Select Board meeting (remotely) this evening. Other towns in the pipeline are Newfane, Westford, and Lyndonville, to name three. If you have influence in your town, please encourage them to join VCBS. It may just prove to be the best \$100 they spend all year.

There is also less grand news to report: the bill (H. 810) re: increased fines and penalties for drivers hitting historic covered bridges has floundered in the House Transportation Committee (but there is always the next legislative biennium, which begins Jan. 2027), and the trademark application (begun in Jan 2025) has been abandoned. The VCBS logo, created in 2000, remains unchanged and is as spectacular as ever. We are

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

Secretary: TBD

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

extremely fortunate to have it continue to represent the VCBS as it has for 26 years.

The minutes/recap of the 3/19/26 Board of Directors meeting appear elsewhere in this issue. Recent highlights: the \$1,000 given to Waitsfield towards engineering costs for clearance bars/prevention of vehicle damage was “gratefully received,” and VT 4-H State Day (5/9/26) was attended and judged by VCBS members, Joe and Maureen Mitchell, for the second consecutive year.

Sadly, I have been dealing with a personal issue in recent months. My apologies to members for not including the CB Week events schedule in this edition of The Bridger. But rest assured, it is in process and will be FABULOUS! Come to the June 6th Spring Meeting to see it fresh off the press!

Thank you for all YOU are doing to support, recruit, and retain members, and promote VCBS!

Sincerely, Beth

Vice-President's Report

by Scott Scribner

I attended a meeting in Rutland County, and one of our venues was brought up: “**Tap to Table**”, held in Cuttingsville, VT, previously hosted by **Stewarts Maple**.

It was mentioned that Stewarts Maple has disclosed that they will not be hosting the venue this year, as it has grown too large for them to handle. The business owners in and around Cuttingsville stated that the venue is very successful, and that they are currently working to ensure it happens again this year in October. Further information will be forthcoming.

Meanwhile, my wife, Barbara Scribner (part of the fundraising committee), attended the **Vermont Tourism Summit** in Killington, Vermont, and had the pleasure of meeting our own Peggy Wilson, who was there representing the VCBS. I'm sure Peggy will update us on the Summit.

If you have not already, please RSVP for our Spring Meeting in Lunenburg. I hope to see you all there!

Spring Meeting 2026!

by Gary Briggs

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**.

The meeting will be held at the former Congregational Church, which our organization, **Top of the Common**, restored as a non-denominational meeting space in 2008. The building boasts its original hardwood-walled interior and stained-glass windows. The Top of the Common leaders are thrilled to welcome the VCBS and have graciously offered us the use of the building at no cost. The building is seasonally open because it does not currently have a heating system. If it looks like a chilly day on June 6th, bring a sweatshirt or jacket.

- Registration begins at 9:30 am
- Business meeting begins 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.

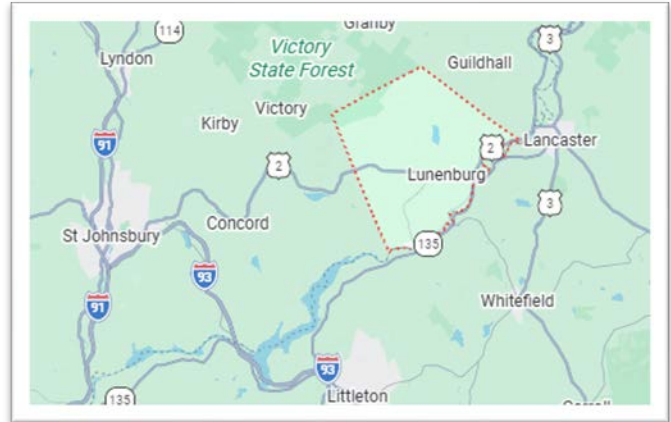
But the Spring meeting will be so much more, including an exciting *multi-prize raffle* featuring covered bridge memorabilia and gift certificates from some of your favorite places to shop or visit, *covered bridge trivia*, *surprises*, and *tours* of the surrounding covered bridges in Vermont and New 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 I-91 south to St. Johnsbury and then Route 2 east to Lunenburg;
- An hour and 20 minutes from White River Junction, up I-91 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 I-91 to St. Johnsbury and then Route 2 east to Lunenburg; and
- 2 hours from Burlington via I-89 south to Route 2 in Montpelier and then east to Lunenburg, approximately 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).

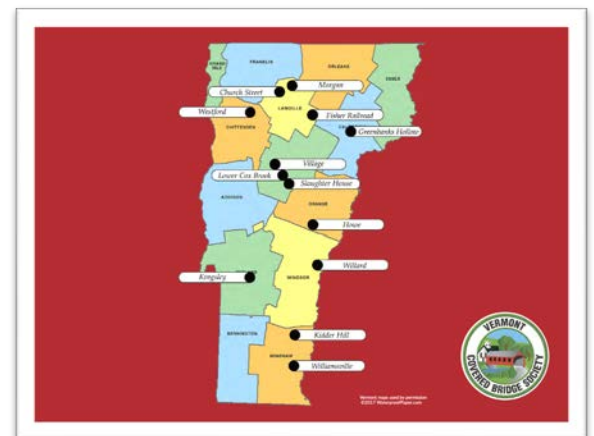
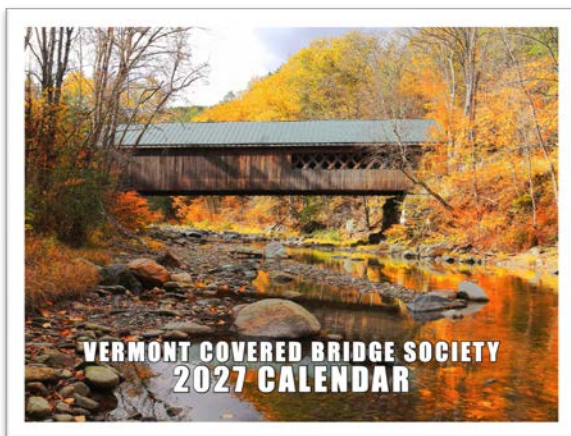
We can't wait to see you in Lunenburg in June!

We're thrilled to announce that [NEK Broadband](#) is a sponsor for the Spring Meeting. We thank them for their support.



2027 Calendars Coming Soon!

By Beth Brown-Limmer



I recently remembered that in the first year of the VCBS calendar, I wrote an article for *The Bridger* describing the covered bridges that would be in our 2023 calendar. So,

now that we are in the fifth year of calendar production, and because some of you may want to plan to buy several 2027 calendars because "your" covered bridge is in it, here's a preview.

On the cover is the **Williamsville CB** in Newfane. It is a foliage shot, and it is gorgeous! Believe it or not, no VCBS calendar has featured a fall view on the cover until now. Summer, yes, in 2023, 2024, 2026. And Winter in 2025.

In January 2027 is the **Kidder Hill CB** in Grafton, February is **Slaughterhouse CB** in Northfield, March is **Church Street CB** in Waterville, and April is **Lower Cox Brook CB** in Northfield. Then, in May 2027, **Fisher RR CB** is featured. In June, **Brown's River CB** in Westford, July is the **Big Eddy CB** in Waitsfield, and August is the **West Twin CB** in Hartland. **Kingsley CB** and **Mill** in East

Clarendon are featured in September, **Morgan CB** in Belvidere in October, **Greenbanks Hollow CB** in November, and **Howe CB** in Tunbridge is dressed up for Christmas in December.

The calendars will be available for purchase at the June 6 meeting and thereafter at 2026 events. Buy early, buy often! Same price as last year: **\$18.00 each**, with **\$5.00 per calendar for shipping if purchased from the VCBS online store**. (Each one must be sent in a separate 10" x 13" envelope)

VCBS Presentation in Tunbridge

By Kay Jorgensen Submitted by Elaine A. Howe

Society president Beth Brown Limmer gave a slide presentation for the Tunbridge Public Library's Sunday Series on March 15. She spoke on "*Preserving Vermont's Covered Bridges*." Photographs by John Knox of bridges in Bennington, Rutland, Addison, and Chittenden counties were featured.

The audience enjoyed Beth's stories about bridge names, designs, and restoration and rebuild status. She shared facts such as Vermont having one covered bridge that is a

National Historic Landmark. It's in North Shrewsbury. Grand Isle County has no covered bridges.

Beth also had some trivia prizes and displayed society posters and merchandise, including bridge guides for the state's four quadrants. After the program, people lingered to ask questions and buy guidebooks. Her husband, Paul, provided manpower, carrying materials, and setting up.

Leadership Opportunity at Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center

Submitted by Bill Caswell

More than a decade after founding the [Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center](#) with her husband, Bob, Trish Kane is getting ready for a richly deserved retirement. She will step down from her post leading the organization on December 31, though she will continue to assist after that.

Trish's wonderful work and her upcoming retirement have created a tremendous opportunity for someone new to lead the Resource Center into a terrific future. The Resource Center already has a unique role as one of the foremost repositories of material on covered bridges worldwide, and the picture is on the verge of becoming even brighter. The Resource Center will soon go live with its first-ever website, providing researchers and covered bridgers worldwide with access to tens of thousands of postcards and photographs of bridges. Also, for the first time, every newsletter published by any covered bridge society, current or former, will be accessible in the same place.

We are actively looking for the next great volunteer leader of the Resource Center. The ideal candidate will have an interest in enhancing the website (the person will be the webmaster), educating others, and, most of all,

caring deeply about covered bridges. Relative proximity to Oxford, New York, where the Resource Center's physical headquarters is, would be helpful but not critical, as almost all the work can be done remotely.



The Resource Center is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. The new head will be assisted by board members Bill Caswell, president of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges; Andy Rebman, president of the Indiana Covered Bridge Society; and Noel Rubinton, senior advisor for the Resource Center.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to help advance the work of covered bridge preservation. If this sounds interesting to you or you have questions, please contact **Trish** or **Noel Rubinton**.

Note: the Research Center opened on July 2, 2011. Here is a link to an article from the Fall 2011 Vermont Covered Bridge Society newsletter, *The Bridger*, celebrating the

opening: *Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center Grand Opening a Huge Success*

Covered Bridge Week Banners



The VCBS sold 23 banners in 2025 to herald the inaugural year of Covered Bridge Week in Vermont.

The VCBS is offering banners to towns with historic covered bridges again this year, with delivery being in June, along with 250th-year flags. VCBS defrays 20% of the cost.

A donor paid the design fees. The cost to towns is **\$80 per banner**. Thus far in 2026, banners have been sold to Marshfield, Northfield, and Proctor. Need one in your town? Contact Melby5584@aol.com.

Committee Reports

Communication Committee

Steve Miyamoto - Chair

The communications committee has had a few busy months.

The first project we took on was migrating our email distribution platform. Due to increased cost, we discontinued using MailChimp and switched to **Constant Contact**. The nonprofit rate for Constant Contact was about 50% lower than MailChimp's. Fortunately, the migration process was fairly simple. Our first use of Constant Contact was successfully sending the Spring newsletter.

Constant Contact will be our email distribution method going forward. The application is available for board members who need to send emails to the membership. I will work with anyone who needs this.

The second project was the new website. Thanks to Peggy Wilson and her team, the new website went live on April 15, 2026. According to the original agreement, this is phase 1. Phase 1 is a mobile-friendly, responsive WordPress website that works on any device. Due to the scope of work, phase 1 includes content from the previous website, such as Membership, Covered Bridge Tours, and the Member Portal. This content will require extensive coding and redesign and will be addressed in phase 2. At this point, phase 2 has no completion date assigned due to the extensive amount of work involved. Also, all the

website work is being done at no cost by [Wilson Creative Group](#).

Education Committee

Jeanne Beaudry - Chair

The Education Committee has been quite busy.

On April 13-16, Marcel and I were at Derby Elementary School working with sixth graders. We spent those 4 days teaching about Vermont Covered Bridges, and by week's end, each student had made their own popsicle-stick-covered bridge model, which they were able to take home.



On Saturday, May 9th, committee members Joe Mitchell and Maureen Mitchell were at UVM in Burlington at the 4-H State Communications Day. They served as judges for participants' projects. This was the second year that VCBS has been involved in this 4-H event. Thank you, Joe and Maureen.



Covered Bridge Art, poster contest.

We are also currently sponsoring a poster contest for Vermont high school-aged students. Each submitted poster must include a depiction of a Vermont Covered Bridge, its name, and the town where the bridge is located. The deadline for submitting entries was on May 15th. The Education Committee members will decide the winning entries. Winners will be announced soon on the VCBS website, [vermontbridges.org](https://www.vermontbridges.org)

We need your help! I welcome any member who is interested in spreading the word about Covered Bridges with Vermont students to email me for more information at vcbs.education@vermontbridges.org

Events Committee

Gary Briggs - Chair

2026 Spring Meeting

See the article above for all the details.

250th Anniversary Flag Project

The VCBS and the [Vermont Division of Historic Preservation](https://www.vermontbridges.org) announced an exciting project in early April to celebrate America's 250th Anniversary. The **VCBS 250th Anniversary Flag Project** will result in an **Official Betsy Ross Anniversary Flag** flown from every historic covered bridge in Vermont on the country's official sesquicentennial date, July 4, 2026. The VCBS has worked closely with Town Clerks and Select Boards in the 46 towns that own historic covered bridges to coordinate the effort. The project was made possible through \$5,000 in funding from the **Vermont Division of Historic**



Preservation and \$1,615 from the **VCBS**. The funding means each town will receive, for free, the official flag and heavy-duty mounting equipment. Towns will work with their road crews to install the flags. This project was also made possible through a generous discount from [Montpelier Stove and Flag Works](https://www.vermontbridges.org). We encourage our members to photograph bridges with the Betsy Ross flags flying and share those photos with VCBS by sending them to vcbs.office@vermontbridges.org.

Covered Bridge Week 2026

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 on everything about Covered Bridge Week via our website at <https://www.vermontbridges.org/>, or watch for a Constant Contact email from us as we get closer to August.

Did you know that the 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.

Annual Fall Meeting 2026

The VCBS is excited to announce that the **Annual Fall Meeting** will be held in **Tunbridge** on **October 10, 2026**. Watch our website for additional information.

Fundraising Committee

Beth Brown-Limmer – Acting Chair

Despite my decision to resign as the Acting Chair of the Fundraising Committee as of March 1, 2026 (something had to give as being President, Acting Secretary, and Fundraising Chair was too, too much), I have continued to get the ball rolling on our very important 2027 VCBS calendar.

Steve Brown, VCBS Member of the Year for 2025, continues to demonstrate his dedication to our organization by beginning in January to collect and format content for the 2027 VCBS calendar. I could not let that project flounder, and so it has not. This is the fifth year of calendars, and they have raised thousands of dollars for VCBS. To recap, we sold between 425 and 500 calendars every year since 2022, despite a price increase from \$15 to \$18 in 2025 and an increase in the "bundle price" each year. It is our top seller and money maker, a good formula for the VCBS!

The 2027 calendar is the "best one yet" (and yes, I do say that every year!) It will debut at the Spring Meeting on 6/6/26. I thank Steve Brown and Steve Miyamoto for their work to get this off the presses and into the hands of covered bridge enthusiasts near and far. More than half of the first run of 300 are "pre-sold" at this time. Will we sell more than 500 this year? Time will tell.

In other news, the VCBS *WILL* be going to the Tunbridge World's Fair (TWF) from Sept. 17 – 20, 2026. (Cost of gas and other factors have jettisoned our plan to take an RV trip to the far west this Fall) I have been recruiting members willing to help with TWF, and I thank those of you who are. If you can come and sell, the VCBS needs you! Last year we were swamped at the VCBS booth, and this year, I hope, will be no different. People love covered bridges, want to learn about them, buy merchandise to

support the VCBS, and want to join! The bonus is: it is FUN! BTW, hours are 9 am to 9 pm on the 17th, 18th, and 19th, and 9 to 6 on Sun. 9/20.

Other than TWF and events during CB Week, Paul and I expect to do little more by way of fairs, festivals, and such this year. *But* that doesn't mean that others cannot. If this is of interest to you, please reach out to me. The VCBS has been accepted as a vendor for the Chester Festival, Sept 19, 20, 21, but it can't be done without volunteers!

And that little job as Fundraising Committee Chair? That also needs your time, energy, enthusiasm, ideas, and dedication! The orientation will be exemplary, trust me!

Membership Committee

Scott Scribner - Chair

We have welcomed 22 new members and 2 lifetime members this year.

Let's welcome our newest members since the last report:

Cathy Mander-Adams (VT)	T Desmond Brown (VT)
Janet Estelle (HI)	Elaine Howe (VT)
Chris Hubbell (VT)	Beverly Kehoe (VT)
Bonnie Kenyon (VT)	Town of Lemington (VT)
Ron & Ruth Smith (PA)	Town of Sunderland (VT)
Larry & Susanne Trottier (VT)	Mary Yackley (VT)

Our current membership is 352, of which 132 are Life Members. There are still 118 *noncurrent* members who need to be renewed. If you appreciate the work of the VCBS, please take the time to renew your membership.

You may have recently been contacted by one of our board members regarding your membership renewal. I would like to thank the board members who helped by reaching out to members who had not renewed. We were able to bring back 7 memberships. One member mentioned that they never received renewal emails. Upon further investigation, it was found that they had unsubscribed from receiving our emails. Please double-check that you have us in your safe sender's list.

We currently have 56 people who want print copies of the newsletter. This is an increase of 3 from the previous reporting.

In the quest to lower costs, I continue to evaluate our publishing expenses. Going forward, I am presenting to the board the option to provide the print version for an annual charge. This would allow us to cover increased postage and supply costs.

If you have questions about your membership, you can email me at scottescribner@earthlink.net, and I will respond accordingly. You are all greatly appreciated! Let's make 2026 a great year!

Publicity Committee

Peggy Wilson - Chair

2nd Annual Covered Bridge Week in Vermont, August 1-8, 2026

Media relations are scheduled to begin on June 1. A Press Release announcement of the event has been created. Many events are being planned and scheduled, as well as fundraising or sponsorship opportunities

250th Anniversary Flag Project

The 1st draft of the press release has been submitted and will be deployed as soon as it is approved

Digital Media Press Kit

The outline of the new press kit is complete and will likely be produced by the end of June. WCGpros.com will consider donating time for the 'digital' portion of development

Possible Bridge Watch Press Release Idea

Work with Miles Jenness to produce a biannual press release providing statewide updates (to each of four regions) on ongoing bridge improvements across the State. The goal is for the media to see our organization as the ideal resource for ongoing information, damage reports, and improvements to our bridges

Website

The new website went live on April 15, 2026.

Vermont Tourism Summit

Attended the Vermont Tourism Summit at Killington on April 28 and 29. I paid the \$250 attendance fee

Sponsorship Program, Draft

The Sponsorship program is a tool allowing all members to promote and 'ask' for sponsorships. This approach will outline the sponsorship parameters while remaining flexible enough for 'negotiations'. The program's infrastructure will need to be developed and approved by the board before adoption

Marketing Chair, Board/Committees Restructure, Draft

This is being looked at to streamline and consolidate our current committee structure

VCBS 5-Year Strategic Plan, Rough Draft

This strategic plan is being developed to promote a long-term vision for the society and will be an ongoing process.

Bridges in the News

Depot Hill Covered Bridge Damaged



The Depot Hill Covered Bridge was damaged on May 5, 2026. The Town of Pittsford issued this public statement for the incident. The incident was also featured on WCAX, a local television station: [Pittsford covered bridge damaged by town employee](#)

Select Board Considers New Plan for Sanborn Bridge Restoration, Location

Paul Hayes Staff Writer April 7, 2026

LYNDON — The Sanborn Covered Bridge could be rebuilt on land rather than returned to its original crossing over the Passumpsic River, a contractor told the Select Board on Monday. Miles Jenness of Huntington-based Vermont Heavy Timber said it was feasible to reassemble and mount the historic span on land, with work potentially completed by next summer at an estimated cost of \$400,000 to \$450,000.

Jenness, whose company removed the bridge from the river in August 2024 as a precaution ahead of Tropical Storm Debby, advocated for the town to preserve the iconic structure — one of the last remaining Paddleford truss style covered bridges in the country.

“I really love this bridge. I was really hoping to get the job to restore it [over the river]. I’m sure many of you are saddened to hear that that part of the project fell through. But I would love to restore it in any way,” he said.

The Select Board took no action, citing the need for more detailed cost estimates and a clearer understanding of available funding. Board members said public input will be sought at their May 4 meeting.

During discussion, Jenness said the 157-year-old bridge could be rebuilt on the same town-owned Main Street parcel where it is currently stored in pieces.

He proposed mounting the structure on concrete footers and adding ramps for pedestrian access. He also said the bridge could be restored to a condition that would allow it to be moved back over the river in the future if circumstances change.

“What I’d love to do is rebuild it as designed to be a clear span. I’d love to see it go back over the river,” he said.

Shift follows collapse of river restoration plan.

Earlier this month, town officials announced that plans to return the 157-year-old bridge to its river crossing had been abandoned, ending a five-year restoration effort.

Officials said the project could not move forward due to a combination of factors, including the inability to secure a key easement, the need for Act 250 approval, delays tied to major flooding and federal disaster recovery work, and grant timelines that have expired.

The town had secured about \$2 million for the restoration, including \$100,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds, nearly \$100,000 in private donations and about \$1.67 million in federal grants and earmarks.

Funding sources included congressional directed spending, the Northern Border Regional Commission, the VTTrans’ Transportation Alternatives Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture grants, the Freeman Foundation, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.



Grant deadlines have already forced the town to return the \$100,000 Paul Bruhn grant. Because the bridge will no longer span the river, the project also no longer qualifies for the \$300,000 Transportation Alternatives grant.

Town officials said about \$550,000 has already been spent, including emergency removal of the bridge ahead of Tropical Storm Debby in 2024 and engineering work. They do not expect to have to repay those funds.

Project manager Nicole Gratton said a mix of private donations, the Freeman Foundation grant, ARPA funds, and part of a covered bridge endowment remains available for the project, in whatever form it takes. “All in all there is between \$350,000-\$400,000 to support a next

life for the bridge without the use of federal funding,” Gratton said.

The full article published by the **Caledonian-Record** can be found here: <https://www.vermontbridges.org/select-board-considers-new-plan-for-sanborn-bridge-restoration-location/>

Lyndon Abandons Plan to Restore Sanborn Bridge to River Crossing

Paul Hayes Staff Writer April 7, 2026

LYNDON – Plans to return the historic Sanborn Covered Bridge to its original crossing over the Passumpsic River have been abandoned, town officials said, ending a five-year effort to restore the span.

At Monday’s Select Board meeting, officials said the project can no longer move forward as designed due to a combination of obstacles, including the inability to secure a key easement and Act 250 approval, delays tied to major flooding and federal disaster recovery work, and grant timelines that have effectively run out.



“We don’t see a viable path forward to get the easement that we want and to get through the Act 250 [state permitting] issue... we’re out of time, essentially,” said Select Board Chair Christian Thompson. “And the backers of the project would like their funds back to be able to fund other projects that are more ready to go forward.”

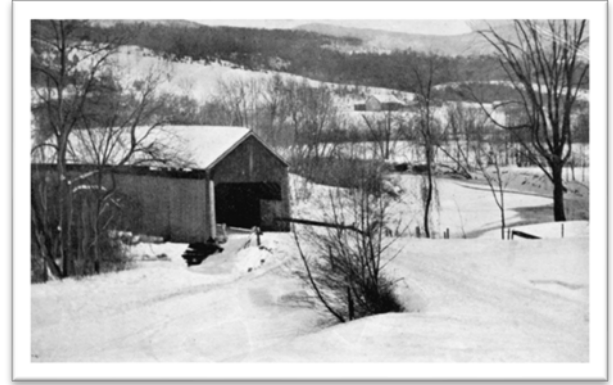
The decision means the bridge — dismantled and removed from the river after severe flood damage — will not be reassembled on its original abutments. Officials said the town will instead explore relocating it, potentially to a site on land.

The full article published by the **Caledonian-Record** can be found here: <https://www.vermontbridges.org/lyndon-abandons-plan-to-restore-sanborn-covered-bridge-to-river-crossing/>

Could a Covered Bridge Replace the Failing Meadow Road Bridge?

By Lisa Loomis April 16, 2026

That’s a question that was raised at the select board this week as the board continued its efforts to replace or shore up the failing Meadow Road Bridge over the Mad River north of Waitsfield Village.



The board, at its April 13 meeting, discussed the urgent need to replace Meadow Road Bridge, but also a proposal that could change the focus of the project from utilitarian to a community-driven landmark project.

Miles Jenness, of Vermont Heavy Timber, presented the board with the idea of replacing the bridge with a covered structure built through a teaching program. The concept would combine workforce training, traditional craftsmanship, and community involvement, while seeking grant funding through programs such as the Northern Border Regional Commission’s Timber for Transit initiative.

The full article published by **The Valley Reporter** can be found here: <https://www.vermontbridges.org/could-a-covered-bridge-replace-the-failing-meadow-road-bridge/>

A “Proud Achievement”: Englishman is Halfway Across His Vermont Covered Bridges Project

By Kristopher Radder April 1, 2026

GUILFORD – Phill Gatenby recently returned to where his film journey began at the Green River Covered Bridge, a place where he filmed his first episode in an ongoing series about the covered bridges of Vermont.



Gatenby's first such video was about the Green River Bridge. He said he wanted to start with the southernmost bridge in Vermont and move up the state.

Gatenby, a native of Manchester, England, now living in Brattleboro, has fully produced just over 50 stories about the covered bridges in the state, but has filmed an extra 20 to keep him busy through the winter months. Gatenby

is officially halfway through telling the stories of each of the covered bridges.

The full article published by the **Brattleboro Reformer** can be found here: <https://www.vermontbridges.org/a-proud-achievement-englishman-is-halfway-across-his-vermont-covered-bridges-project/>

Board of Directors Meetings

Minutes of VCBS Board of Directors meeting on March 19, 2026

Agenda and reports from all current officers and committee chairs were sent to all directors on March 5, 2026 (per current bylaws)

Directors present: Melody Beth Brown-Limmer, Scott Scribner, Joe Mitchell, Steve Miyamoto, Peggy Wilson, Jeanne Beaudry, Gary Briggs, Bill Caswell. Maureen Mitchell, Asst Treasurer, is present. Directors absent: Miles Jenness, Joe Nelson, and Neil Daniels.

Quorum established. Meeting called to order by the President at 7:02 p.m.

Old business:

1. Minutes of last Board mtg on 1/15/26 were reviewed (sent to all with agenda), and the following corrections were suggested by Beth:
 - a. change date from November 20, 2025 to January 15, 2026
 - b. add to Item 1: President's Report d. so it reads: organizational changes mentioned so as to *compress committees, specifically combine Publicity to Communications.*
 - c. Item 1:i Correct spelling to Randolph, from Randolf
 - d. Item 2, 1, a, vi: Add to motion so it reads: Motion to have Gary Briggs submit...
 - e. Item 2, 1, a, vi: Add "Vermont" so it reads: Vermont Humanities Council
 - f. Item 2, 5, c. Add "VCBS" so it reads, they are interested in VCBS supplying a few judges....
 - g. Item 2, 8, a. Strike addition, add additional so it reads: an *additional* 136 may be...
 - h. Item 3, 1, a: add "Steve Miyamoto" so it reads: to reimburse Steve Miyamoto for QR code from 10/31/25 to 10/31/26.

Motion made to accept the minutes as corrected. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

New business:

1. Officer Reports

Written reports were sent to all directors for review. Chair asked for questions re:

President's Report: No questions or discussion

Vice President's Report: No questions. Beth mentioned she had been in contact with Lyn Des Marais and her family in Marshfield re: Orton Farm CB and Maple Monday.

Secretary: vacant. No candidates advanced by directors present.

Treasurer: End of 2025 and monthly reports for Jan and Feb 2026 submitted to all directors. No questions. Beth expressed thanks to the Treasurer for the work done in tracking and sending monthly reports. (shared on Google Drive).
2. Committee Chair Reports:

Bridge Watch: Miles sent a report on 3/7/26 and an email on 3/17/26. No questions or comments.

Communication: Beth asked Scott if he is ok with updating the Constant Contact member email list, as Steve suggested in his written report. Scott said he was. Beth thanked Steve for the work to migrate the email list from Mail Chimp to Constant Contact in February 2026.

Action item: Steve will send Scott the Constant Contact sign-in info so the list can be kept up to date.

Action item: Steve and Peggy will discuss the granular details of merging Publicity and Communication Committees and bring a proposal to the 5/21/26 BoD mtg.

Education: Jeanne amended her written report. 4-H State Day is in Burlington, not Barre. Thanked Joe and Maureen Mitchell for going to this (5/9 from 10-2). No entries for the 2026 poster contest yet. Deadline 4/24. Will send email reminders. Prizes will NOT include VCBS student membership. Cash prizes and certificates.

Events: Agenda for 6/6/26 Spring Mtg sent to all directors on 3/7/26. Beth requested adding a group photo and the director's photo (per Peggy) at 12:55 pm. Sponsor check has not been received. Gary will follow up. Budget submitted. Discussed the flag project and looked at the official flag pictures. The group decided by consent to order the Betsy Ross version when the grant was awarded. (to hear for VT Humanities Council by 4/8/26). Beth and Gary will compose a cover letter to add to each flag kit when the time comes. Members at the 6/6/26 mtg will be asked to deliver letters and kits to CB towns close to their homes. Towns will be asked to install flags by July 20, 2026, and to send photos for addition to the VCBS website. WCAX will also take footage to air.

Action item: Peggy and Gary will confer re: press releases and other publicity for 6/6/26 Spring Mtg

Fundraising: Chair vacant since 3/1/26. No candidates were advanced by directors present. No questions on the written report submitted to all directors on 3/7/26.

Historical: No questions or comments on the written report.

Legislative Watch: Chair vacant. No candidates. Beth reported that she and Miles are tentatively scheduled to testify to the House Transportation Committee on 3/24/26 re: H. 810, a bill regarding fines/penalties and preventive measures to prevent damage from oversized vehicles.

Membership: Update to written report: Current membership: 460, with 120 on the "to be purged" list. Gary asked what lands a member on the purge list. Scott answered: Not paying dues for 2 years. Chair reports 54 members want newsletter via print/mail. Beth had questions about sending VCBS brochures upon request. This has been requested by others and not done by Beth at events. Chair said he sent 5 brochures to the member for use at his rental property. Discussion of the cost of printing brochures and the number currently on hand (300-ish) ensued.

Action item: Steve M. and Peggy will form an ad hoc group with the mission to update and revise the VCBS brochure, using the brand standard guide for font and colors. To bring the new version to the full Board at the 5/21/26 BoD mtg for approval before printing is done.

Publicity: Chair added to written report of 3/5/26: She will be attending the Vermont Tourism Summit at Grand Hotel at Killington on April 29, 2026. Beth asked about the trademark and Copy Mark coming back for another \$250. They were paid \$249 in late Oct 2025 to fix 2 things and get TM registered. Now

they say 3 more things in need of change and want more money. Peggy is "pushing back" and "in negotiations" with Copy Mark. Deadline is 5/5/26 to resubmit to USPTO. Peggy will "meet that".

3. Proposals:

- a. Conflict of interest policy. Discussed as submitted by Steve M. Exact wording needs to be hammered out. Bill C. offered to share the policy NSPCB has. Aspects of IRS compliance and risk management were raised. The President shared that there is no law in VT requiring such a policy. Each VCBS director would need to sign an affirmation statement annually. Motion made to adopt a conflict of interest policy to add to the VCBS Bylaws. Seconded. Motion passed.

Action item: Bill and Steve to wordsmith the language of the VCBS policy and share this and the annual affirmation forms at the 5/21/26 BoD mtg. If approved, add the policy/bylaw change to the 6/6/26 member meeting agenda. If approved by membership, add to the VCBS Bylaws and have all directors sign affirmation statements.

- b. Change to the VCBS mission statement: copy of the version submitted by Maureen Mitchell, sent to all directors prior to the meeting. Discussion ensued. Final wording settled on: change "advocacy" to "stewardship". Otherwise, acceptable. Motion made to adopt new mission statement. Seconded. Motion passed.

Action item: New statement to be acted on by members at 6/6/26 Spring Mtg agenda. If approved, the President will send the new version to the Vermont Secretary of State.

- c. Revisit the Membership benefits project. Results of ad hoc group shared with all directors after 1/15/26 BoD mtg. Seeking clarification re: adding the detailed list of member benefits to the VCBS website. Agreement that this should be done. The President expressed thanks to the ad hoc group, especially Bob Dover, who spent hours researching what other NPs offer in terms of benefits.

Action item: Steve M. to add a detailed list to the membership page on the VCBS website.

- d. OVRCC (Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce) renewal of dues. Beth offered background: joined 5/3/24: \$149.00, non-profit rate. Renewed 5/3/35: \$153.00. The rate for

2026 is \$155.80. The goal was to increase membership from southern VT and increase exposure. Beth reported approx 14 new members (individuals or couples). Motion made to renew with OVRCC for 5/3/26 – 5/3/27. Seconded. Motion passed.

Action item: Beth will request that the invoice be sent to the Treasurer via email for payment by 5/1/26.

- e. Tunbridge World's Fair. Dates are 9/17 - 9/20/26. Hours are 9 am to 9 pm. Supt needs to know whether vendors from 2025 will return in 2026 by 3/25/26. Jeanne asked what the net profit in 2025 was. Beth said \$2,299.10. No directors present volunteered to man the VCBS booth at TWF this year. Beth and Paul will be out of state. Decision made not to go to TWF in 2026 due to lack of manpower.

Action item: Beth to convey decision to TWF Supt by 3/25/26: VCBS not vending in 2026.

- f. 2027 VCBS calendar. Steve Brown and Steve Miyamoto have completed the photos, date blocks, map, and covers. With no FR Chair, the decision on whether to proceed must be made by

the BoD. Jeanne said the calendars are an "identifying item" for VCBS and a "good seller". Beth reported that she recently contacted VT Country Store and they bought 125 calendars for \$13.50 each. This will greatly defray the cost of printing 300. Smuggs (who bought 24 in 2025) may want some for resale (also \$13.50 each). Jeanne will check. After the discussion, we decided to move forward. Beth offered to proofread the calendar (once the font and color changes are made to conform to the brand standard guide) and update the mission statement.

Action item: Steve M. to make changes to font and colors. Beth will update the mission statement and proofread. Calendar to be sent to printer, quantity 300. Payment by check within 30 days of the invoice date. Shipping to VCS and Gary (as online store shipping clerk), direct from the printer.

Hearing no other topics of discussion, a reminder of the next Board of Directors meeting was given: Thur. May 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Motion made, seconded, and passed at the adjourned meeting at 8:49 p.m.

VCBS 2025 Treasurer Report

VCBS Q1-2026 FINANCIAL UPDATE

The following provides a summary of the VCBS financial position for the period of 1/1/2026-3/31/2026. Total inflows for Q1-2026 are similar to those of Q1-2025. Expenses for this quarter are below both Q1-2025 and the 2026 budget approved by the BoD in January (assuming even budget distribution throughout the year). The BoD continues to be diligent with the money raised through donations, dues, merchandise sales, and sponsorships: particularly with the knowledge that the majority of society revenue in recent years has come from events during the summer months, which could be impacted by poor weather, macroeconomic conditions, or other factors.

Total Inflows (all channels, minus transaction costs)		\$3,223.95
Total Outflows		\$2,439.90
Account Balances:	12/30/2025	3/31/2026
Union Bank Checking Account	\$20,824.73	\$22,105.61
Union Bank CD Account	\$7,648.35	\$7,804.91
Live Oak Bank Savings Account	\$6,647.49	\$6,694.22
PayPal	\$931.22	\$101.07
Total Cash Assets	\$36,051.79	\$36,705.81
<i>Save-a-Bridge Fund Portion</i>	<i>\$20,374.09</i>	<i>\$19,827.38</i>

**Note: Account balances differ from total cash flow for the quarter by \$130.03, due to transactions accounted for on the 2025 reports that were not cleared until 2026.*

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

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are the lifeblood of every organization, big and small. The VCBS is no exception to this reality. Many years ago, I remember Joe Nelson making the plea, *“Now is the time for all good members to come to the aid of their society”*.

Today, we find ourselves in the same situation many years later. We currently need a **Secretary** and a **Fundraising Chairperson**. These positions are open to any member of the VCBS in good standing.

Contact Beth Brown-Limmer (melby5584@aol.com) if you are interested in either of these positions.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who is currently volunteering their time and effort to support the VCBS. We have added several volunteers to committees such as Education and Fundraising in the past few years.

Planning On Coming to Covered Bridge Week?

The new [MyPlace Hotel](#) in Randolph Center, VT, is offering a room rate discount from August 1 through Aug 8, 2026. This hotel has 63 rooms, all with kitchenettes. Choose either 1 King or 2 Queen beds.

Easy access to AMTRAK Station, ADA-Compliant, and pet-friendly.

This is a great place to use as your base while seeing Vermont, and is a start/end point for the Covered Bridge Tour of 9 area bridges on Sat. Aug. 1. Call the hotel directly at (802) 662-1658 and mention “VCBS” to book. Tour tickets needed? Contact Beth at (802) 222-1573.



Mark Your Calendar: October 10, 2026

The VCBS is excited to announce that the **Annual Fall Meeting** will be held in Tunbridge on October 10, 2026. Watch our website for additional information.



The New VCBS Website Revealed

Well, the new VCBS website is now here. Our thanks to member and Publicity Chair, Peggy Wilson. Peggy has made a substantial donation of her company's services, [Wilson Creative Group](#), for this design. This is phase 1 of the redesign. Additional phases will be coming in the future.

The URL is the same, <https://www.vermontbridges.org/>. Have a look around our new website home.



Covered Bridge Art Poster Contest, Winners

The Education Committee members have decided on the winning entries. The winners are all from Hazen Union High School, and a **special thank you goes to Art Teacher Cynthia Camber** for all her support. **First place** goes to **Ella Renaud**, **second place** to **Danica Patridge**, and **third place** to **Karli Patridge**.



Ella Renaud



Danica Patridge



Karli Patridge



PO Box 83
Brandon, VT
05733-0083



Vermont Covered Bridge Society Membership Application

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

Name: _____ Email: _____

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

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

Newsletter Delivery:
☐ Postal Mail ☐ Email
☐ Opt-out

Receive VCBS Email:
☐ Yes ☐ No

Donations:

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

Return completed application with payment to:

Vermont Covered Bridge Society
PO Box 83
Brandon, VT 05733

(Checks payable to Vermont Covered Bridge Society)

OR Visit our website to join:



www.vermontbridges.org/membership