

From: [Valerie Capels](#)
To: [Artisans' Gallery](#); [Artisan's Gallery](#); [Barbara Gulisano](#); [Bonnie & Gaelic McTigue](#); [Bridget LaMell](#); [Christopher Alberti](#); [David Sellers](#); [David Sellers](#); [Iliyan Deskov](#); [Jeffrey Lynn](#); [Lori Klein](#); [Mad River Antler](#); [Mary Schramke](#); [Moosewalk Studios](#); [Norman Abend](#); [Patty Kernan Smith](#); [Peggy Potter](#); [Sam Gulisano](#); [Savitri Bhagavati](#); [Sheri DeFlavio](#); [Broadleaf Landscape Architecture](#); [Chris Pierson](#); [Clayton-Paul Cormier](#); [Clearwater Sports](#); [Complexions](#); [Craig Goss](#); [Dori Ingalls](#); [Fit Werx](#); [Jan Sweet](#); [Jeff Dunham](#); [Jon Walluck](#); [Karen-Valley Arts Foundation](#); [Kate & Myndy Woodruff](#); [Kim Donahue](#); [Lincoln Peak Properties](#); [Lisa Davis](#); [Lisa Loomis](#); [Mad River Travel](#); [Maple Sweet Real Estate](#); [Rebecca Baruzzi](#); [Sandy Tarburton](#); [Valley Players](#); [Vickie Trihy](#); [Village Grocery & Deli](#); [Waitsfield Pottery](#); [William Bernstein](#); [Stuart Baraw](#); [Marion Baraw](#); [Jason Gulisano](#); [John Vitko](#)
Bcc: [Susan Senning](#); [Renee Pierce](#); [Kellee Mazer](#); [Chris Kaufman](#); [William Patenaude](#); [jimligon@together.net](#); [Evan P. Detrick, P.E.](#); [John Conley](#); ["Road Foreman"](#); [Charlie Goodman](#); [Kari Dolan](#); [Kari Dolan](#); [Logan Cooke](#); [Sal Spinosa](#); [Scott Kingsbury](#)
Subject: FW: Covered Bridge Rehab - Summer 2015 >> Bridge Street closure and some background
Date: Sunday, May 03, 2015 3:06:00 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Bridge Street Businesses, Property Owners, Neighbors, and others interested in the Covered Bridge and Bridge Street improvement projects:

As many of you are aware, the Covered Bridge rehab and Bridge Street improvements projects are finally going to happen this year. They need to: the weight of the cantilevered sidewalk is causing the bridge to "rack" or twist; the bridge decking must be replaced; the roof must be replaced; the abutments must be repaired; the retaining wall destroyed by Tropical Storm Irene must be fixed; and the entire stormwater system below the street must be replaced. These are matters of public health, safety, and maintenance of critical infrastructure and can no longer be postponed.

Last summer before the project was put out to bid the first time, the MRV Chamber and the Town hosted a meeting with Bridge Street and Marketplace businesses to address a wide range of concerns, including timing of the Bridge Street closure(s), impacts of construction disruption, various construction details, strategies to support the business community, and more. We learned a lot, including how vitally important the month of August is through Columbus Day. The low bid came in higher than the funds we had at the time and the project could not go forward. Since then, we received additional grant funding for the stormwater component and voters authorized borrowing up to \$400,000 at the March 3, 2015 Town Meeting. FEMA funding for the retaining wall repair goes away if it is not completed by September 1, 2015. EPA grant funds for the stormwater system will go away if the project is not completed by December 31, 2015.

The project was advertised for construction this past winter. The bid specs called for total project completion by July 31. Though the Selectboard accepted the low bid from Alpine Construction in January, a contract could not be executed until after voters approved the bond article at the March 3, 2015 Town Meeting. This caused a 2-month delay in the contractor's ability to order materials and line up all the other necessary logistics. The first pre-construction meeting was held in March. Among other things, the following matters were discussed that would require further attention:

- the metal sidewalk structure was backordered, which meant the July 31 deadline could not be met;
- the project schedule had not factored the Mad Marathon event passing through Bridge Street on Sunday, July 12 and would need to be revised;
- the contractor would need to obtain state approval to do any work in or near the water before July 1;
- the contractor would need to obtain a VTrans permit to place signs in the Route

100 ROW;

- the utility pole by the bridge could not be “held” in place by GMP as was the original plan but would need to be temporarily relocated northward along the top of the riverbank;
- the shift in alignment of the overhead wires away from the bridge would put them through the center of the ash tree’s canopy on the other side of the bridge. The GMP arborist did not see of any way to avoid killing the tree and it will need to be removed. The Selectboard authorized a replacement tree through the Street Tree Reserve Fund.

The contractor had a lot of homework to do and a second pre-construction project meeting was held on April 28. Originally planned to be held at the Town Office, I changed the location to the Wait House so Chamber representatives, who are new to the project since Susan Klein’s departure last year, could be brought up to speed and help lend support to the Town and community as we get through this project. I also invited representatives from the Mad Marathon to the project meeting so that everyone could be on the same page about what was needed to accommodate this major event. The contractor had prepared a revised schedule that was again obsolete by the end of the meeting.

Here is an update of what I know:

- An updated schedule is expected to be provided on Monday, May 4.
- The contractor will be in town on Monday, May 4 to place message boards on Route 100 and start placing road signs along the detour route, which will take two to three days.
- The main bridge and roadway will be closed beginning the week of May 11 and demolition of the bridge deck will begin.
- Kingsbury Construction has been hired for the excavation and stormwater work, which will also begin the week of May 11.
- The contractor would like to remove the pedestrian bridge during this time, but I am exploring whether that can be delayed without impacts to the schedule or project costs to maintain pedestrian access across the river for as long as possible.
- The job trailer and port-o-let will be located on the east (Warren) side of the bridge near the Condo mailboxes.
- When the utility pole can be relocated significantly impacts the timing and sequencing of other aspects of the project. At last Tuesday’s project meeting, it was uncertain whether everything could be in place for the pole to be moved as early as Thursday of last week. Things did fall into place and efforts were made to move the pole on Thursday, but complications arose. An alternative plan will be considered on Monday, May 4.
- Work on the abutments will begin after July 15, so ANR and Corps of Engineers approval to work in or near the river sooner will not be necessary.
- The contractors intend to work four 10-hour days Mon. – Thurs. and have the area buttoned up for the weekends Fri. – Sun.

Why all this detail? There have been many moving parts to this project, particularly over these past few weeks, which has made it a challenge to nail down a schedule and send

out useful and timely information. I also want to identify some of the essential variables we need to work around. Going forward, I intend to provide frequent updates as the project progresses. Some have also questioned why other businesses were not invited to the April 28 meeting. It was a project meeting with a limited scope to focus on the project details, procedures, and other logistics, which were substantially affected by the nature of the Marathon and how to safely funnel 1,000+ people through a construction zone with no pavement.

I would like to schedule an informational and strategy meeting one morning this week ASAP with Bridge Street and Marketplace business people, Chamber representatives, and anyone else who wants to be involved to revisit strategies that we can work together to support businesses and residents during this time and have this project move toward completion and quickly and smoothly as possible. I would like to aim for Tuesday or Wednesday 8:30am or 9:00am and will see if the Fellowship Hall in the United Church of Christ basement will be available. I expect to have more information after Monday morning and whether the contractor will be able to attend a meeting a morning this week.

I appreciate the Chamber's efforts to get information out quickly, broadly, and constructively. I don't usually disclose e-mail addresses in a broad distribution, but did in this case so folks can see whether it should be forwarded to others or who else should be included in future updates. Also, please let me know if you wish to be removed from the list.

Thank you,

--Valerie

Valerie Capels, Town Administrator
Town of Waitsfield
9 Bridge Street
Waitsfield, VT 05673
p: (802) 496-2218
f: (802) 496-9284
e: townadmin@madrivervalley.com
w: www.waitsfieldvt.us



From: MRV Chamber of Commerce [mailto:chamber@madrivervalley.com@mail38.atl31.mcdlv.net] **On**
Behalf Of MRV Chamber of Commerce
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 10:33 AM
To: =?utf-8?Q??=
Subject: Covered Bridge Rehab - Summer 2015

Last fall's covered bridge project was delayed and will proceed this summer.

[View this email in your browser](#)

Covered Bridge Project

The Bridge will be ready for foliage season!

Yesterday, the Town of Waitsfield held a meeting at the General Wait House for the team involved in the bridge construction project. The Chamber was invited to attend to learn the scope of the project and understand how it will affect the community.

If you remember, this project was originally going to take place the end of Summer through Fall 2014 but was delayed. That delay now means it will be taking place this summer. Of course, this is not ideal but it is the reality of living in a covered bridge community in a northern state with a very short construction window. We need to make the best of it for ourselves and our summer visitors.

Here is a summary of details relevant to businesses and residents - not just Bridge Street but anyone on East Warren Road and its side roads:

- The Chamber will actively work with businesses throughout the summer to keep commerce flowing amidst the construction zone.
- The Bridge will be closed to foot and vehicle traffic late May through late August.
- The Bridge will be opened for the Mad Marathon on July 12th (foot traffic only).
- According to the schedule, the earliest it will reopen is the last week of August. The latest it will reopen is the second week of September.
- Construction will halt on Friday afternoons and resume on Monday mornings. There will be no construction on the weekends.

Here is what we can do as a business and residential community:

- Be positive - Stay focused on the outcome.
- Show visitors that our character extends beyond the covered bridge. Give them a customer service experience that will make them want to come back again when the bridge work is complete.
- Make the workers and project managers our allies - Making them feel appreciated will be to our advantage. (I'm thinking coffee and pastries to the construction trailer on a cold rainy spring morning??)
- Work together to beautify the area in any way we can. The Chamber will work with the Bridge Street businesses to strategize ways to let people know we are open for business.

- Embrace the project and rally around the Bridge as it under goes rehab - Our attitudes toward the project are key.
- It's likely that the contractors are used to being the "bad guys" when they roll into town but we assured them that we understand and respect that they have a job to do. We asked that in turn they respect that the businesses on the street have a job to do as well. We asked that they communicate any changes or delays in the schedule and consider the need to accommodate foot traffic on Bridge Street. (Being kind to them might make them more accommodating toward us! Maybe.)
- Again, BE POSITIVE - Stay focused on the outcome!

The scope of work includes:

- Rehabilitation of the Covered Bridge (roof, decking, abutments)
- Removal of the cantilevered sidewalk and replacement with a new, prefabricated bridge supported independently on new abutments and steel beams. The exterior appearance will be unchanged. This will require a crane to move the prefab structure into place.
- Repair of the retaining wall destroyed by Tropical Storm Irene.
- Replacement of the stormwater system below Bridge Street, which will include complete excavation and resurfacing of the roadway.
- Replacement of the decrepit asphalt sidewalks with new concrete sidewalks, reset existing curbing, install new curbing.
- Electrical conduit for installation of future street lamps.

Technical questions should be directed to the Waitsfield Town Office.

For moral support and strategies to keep business flowing, contact the Chamber of Commerce.

Please keep in mind that this is not the first time that Bridge Street and the covered bridge have been closed and it certainly won't be the last. We will get through this!

4061 Main Street
PO Box 173
Waitsfield, Vermont 05673

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)