

River Byway News

The Connecticut River Byway Newsletter

January 2015



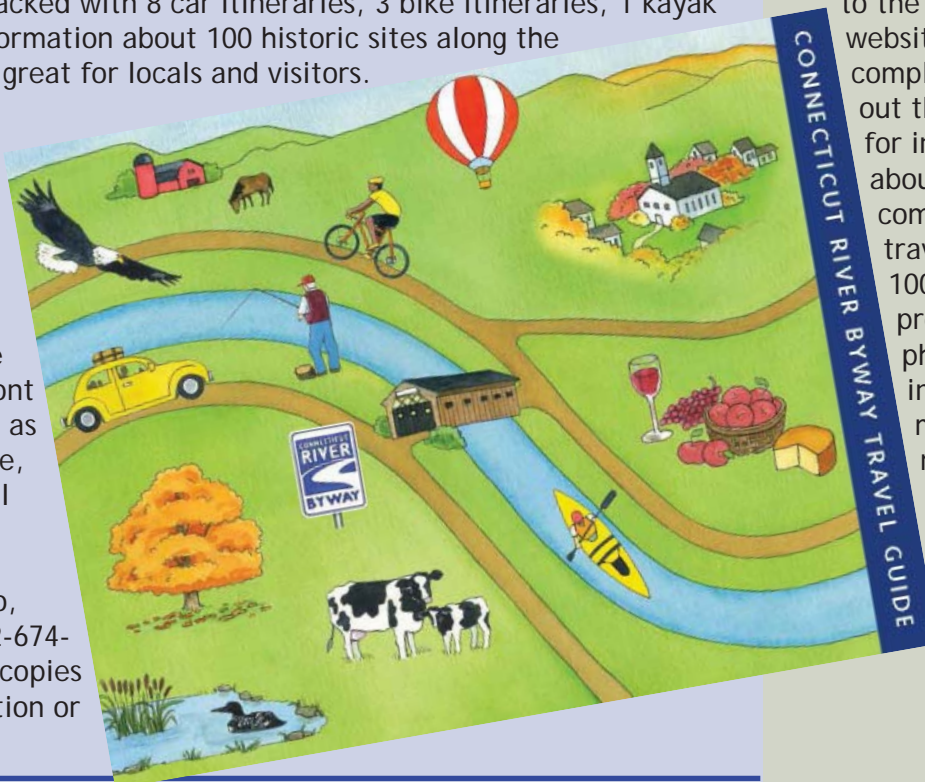
It's Arrived! New Byway Travel Guide

In November 2014 the new Connecticut River Byway Travel Guide was printed. It is the culmination of the hard work of many Council members, volunteers and consultants. Many thanks to all involved!

The new brochure is packed with 8 car itineraries, 3 bike itineraries, 1 kayak itinerary as well as information about 100 historic sites along the routes. Brochures are great for locals and visitors.

So far over 17,000 brochures have been (or soon will be) delivered to over 60 places along the Byway - including all the Waypoint Welcome Centers, several Vermont visitor centers, as well as Chambers of Commerce, towns, parks, historical societies, museums...

Contact Katharine Otto, kotto@swcrpc.org, 802-674-9201 if you would like copies for a town, organization or museum near you.



Coming soon!

With the Connecticut River Travel Guide recently completed, all the recent updates to the Byway website will soon be complete. Check out the website for information about Waypoint communities, travel itineraries, 100 historic site profiles and photographs, interactive maps, and more!

Check it out at www.ctriverbyway.org

Help needed as Byway Council starts to plan for future

We may be a little thin in the ranks right now but your Connecticut River Byway Council is still in business. In our short history we have defined the Byway, won national recognition and leveraged federal and state grants to build the tourism infrastructure that had been lacking in the past. Some of the "Waypoint Communities" are having a difficult time manning the visitors' centers and some have even shut down but the infrastructure and the "attractions" are still in place and the concept still makes some sense.

Using our last federal grant a fabulous itineraries brochure has been produced and will be printed and distributed this fall. It really is impressive! With the completion of this project the federal dollars are gone. There will be no money for staff assistance beyond the maintenance of the web site. However, losing federal funding is a mixed bag. True, we have lost a funding source but the red tape is gone and we have gained freedom in choosing our partners. I've always wanted a stronger connection to the businesses of the Byway. We were always prevented from promoting individual businesses. I sense that the Council members are ready to fully dive into a marketing effort in cooperation with the business community. Our goal? PROMOTION! While the Council continues to value our traditional partners, we need to take it to the next level and develop strong connections with individual businesses, chambers of commerce and other business organizations. How do we do that without leaving anyone out???

That's where we need your help now. The Council will hold what I would call an old fashioned "skull session" sometime in February where we can get all current and potential partners together and figure out how to put together this promotional effort. Won't you please help us and ultimately help yourselves by participating?

More info to come - stay tuned.

Thanks,
Glenn English, Haverhill, NH
Council Member

Upcoming Meetings

The next Byway Council meeting will be January 29th, 2015, 1pm-3pm

Location: Southern Windsor County RPC Office
(Physical address: 38 Ascutney Park Road,
Ascutney, VT)

Main agenda item: Looking to the future of the Byway, including new purpose statement and bylaws.

If you are interested in attending or would like to see a copy of the agenda, please email Katharine Otto at kotto@swcrpc.org. In the event of poor weather Katharine will email to postpone.

The business brainstorming session will be in February.

The date and time will be set depending on availability of those interested to attend. If you are interested in attending, please email Glenn English at townmanager@haverhill-nh.com



Purpose statement update - Your comments needed

As Glenn just explained, the Byway Council is redefining their direction. And a good place to start is with the purpose statement. Below is a first draft for review:

The purpose of the Connecticut River Byway Council is ongoing development and promotion of the Connecticut River Byway as a four-season tourism destination. To facilitate this, the Byway Council will collaborate with all stakeholders, including public, private and non-profit partners, as well as interested local residents.

What do you think?

- Too long? Too short? Too specific? Too general?
- Have we missed something important?
- Should we add something about educating locals and visitors about the resources of the Byway?

Email your comments to the Council Secretary at kotto@swcrpc.org by the next Council meeting (1/29/2015).

A sampling of historic sites from our new Byway Travel Guide



For more on our 100 historic sites and the travel itineraries, see www.ctriverbyway.org

Historic Site 19 - Langdon Meeting House 121 Route 12A, Langdon, NH

Town meeting is a New England tradition like none other. For the residents of Langdon it also represents a State of New Hampshire record they take great pride in. From the first town business meeting in the Meeting House, community members have been gathering at this same location for over 210 years, marking a State record for most consecutive town meetings in the same building.

The 1801 construction included post-and-beam framing, hand-hewn roof trusses, granite foundation set on fieldstone rock, clapboard siding and a slate gabled roof. In 1851 renovations removed porches, galleries and box pews, while an exterior steeple was added. A second floor was installed in the opening between the galleries and the box pews were relocated upstairs.

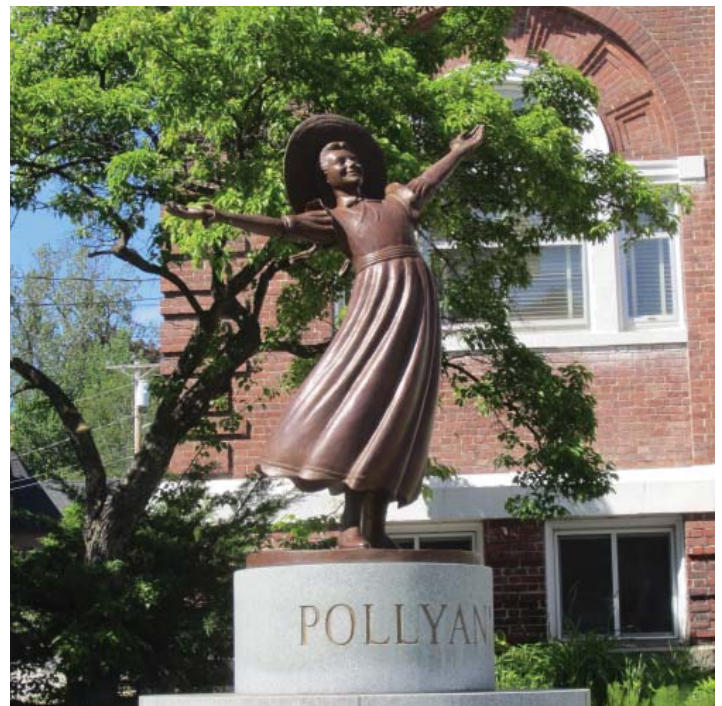
During this same 1850s timeframe, the first floor became the location for regular town business and the second floor was utilized by the Universalist Society as a place of worship.

Source: http://langdonheritage.org/langdon_meeting_house.htm



Historic Site 3 - Estey Organ Building 108 Birge Street, Brattleboro, VT

By the late 19th century, the Estey Organ Building in Brattleboro, Vermont produced between 1,600 and 1,800 organs a month with forty organs exported to Europe every week. In 2002, the Estey Organ Museum was founded with a mission to become a "world-class interactive music museum."



Historic Site 73 - Pollyanna Statue 92 Main Street, Littleton, NH

A bronze statue of Pollyanna, the lovable "bright side of life" character penned by author Eleanor Hodgman Porter, stands tall with her arms outstretched, welcoming residents and visitors alike to Porter's hometown of Littleton, New Hampshire.

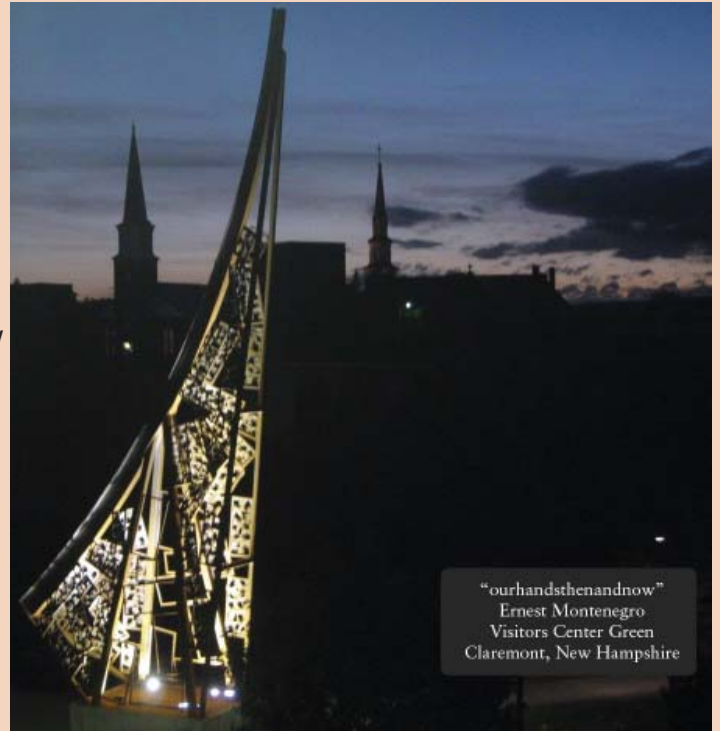
Celebrating Claremont's 250th anniversary

On October 26, 2014 the lights were turned on as the sculpture "ourhandsthenandnow", designed by Claremont sculptor Ernest Montenegro and commissioned by the Claremont 250th Committee, was dedicated to those who built the city. The sculpture stands next to the Connecticut River Byway Waypoint Welcome Center in Claremont NH.

In 2006 when the Visitor Center Green and the landscaped ellipse were built, Claremont sculptor Ernest Montenegro had an eye on the location to honor the history of Claremont with public art. On top of the old Sullivan Machine Company foundation, where thousands were employed over the years building drills for the mining industry, the art now stands as a celebration of community spirit.

What began as an artist's design, was then built by Canam Group with a donation of the steel. A group of residents who had volunteered to spearhead Claremont's 250th Birthday celebration in 2014 commissioned the sculpture and raised the funds to do so. Other businesses stepped in to offer a donation of the interior lights, plasma cutting and welding, as well as site work and landscaping. This partnership evolved to celebrate the city's history of work with everyone pulling together with local support, funding and expertise.

For more information about the sculpture, Claremont, and the Connecticut River Byway see www.claremontnh.com/visitors/ and www.ctriverbyway.org



St Johnsbury Waypoint Welcome Center makeover



In 2011 the Town of St Johnsbury received a National Scenic Byway Grant to make much needed improvements to the exterior surroundings and access to the St Johnsbury Welcome Center. Located in the historic train station in downtown St Johnsbury, this project will enhance intermodal transportation and improve safety, outside amenities, parking and pedestrian access and connect Byway visitors to the community. The

project includes rebuilding Depot Square Park and its retaining wall, adding stairs, sidewalks, new paving and drainage and improved ADA accessibility between the Waypoint center the park and the community beyond.

The Town is currently reviewing plans for the project. They are looking at various options and ensuring that the improvements from this project blend well with other improvements concurrently underway that involve lighting and sidewalks on Railroad Street immediately adjacent to the Waypoint Center project. This review should be completed shortly and the project will then move on to construction plans and then be put out to bid. The Town is hoping to have a contractor on board for construction this coming construction season.

For more information about the project, please contact Doug Morton at Northeast Vermont Development Association at Morton@nvda.net

Vermont Byways Program

Welcome To The
Connecticut River
Byway



Vermont Open
Studio Weekend



Travel Itineraries

 Arts & Culture

 Historic Downtowns

 Outdoor R & A

Lots has been happening for Vermont Byways since our last newsletter. Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing (VDTM) has been leading a variety of projects with all the Vermont Byways. Projects include:

- Open Studio Weekend coordinated to match Byway routes
- Collecting "Itineraries" for outdoor recreation, downtowns and arts & culture
- Marketing the Byways at a wide variety of travel events - including the Big E and the New York Times Travel Show
- A new Vermont Byways Brochure
- Collecting and sharing Byway photos on Pinterest www.pinterest.com/vermonttourism/vermont-byways/

For more info on Vermont's Byways check out www.vermont-byways.us/

Council Members

- ~ Gayle Ottmann (Co-Chair)
- ~ Glenn English, Town of Haverhill (Co-Chair)
- ~ Kevin McKinnon, Town of Colebrook (Treasurer)
- ~ Staff from TRORC and SWCRPC (Secretary)
- ~ K. Carriere, Tour Windsor Vermont
- ~ Russell Hirschler, Upper Valley Trails Alliance
- ~ Ellen Howard, Town of Rockingham
- ~ Matt Mann, Windham Regional Commission
- ~ Nancy Merrill, City of Claremont
- ~ Robert McBride, Rockingham Arts and Museum Project
- ~ William Rose, New Hampshire Agency of Transportation (Ex-Officio)
- ~ Catherine Brooks, Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing (Ex-Officio)
- ~ Unknown, National Park Service (Ex-Officio)

River Byway News

This edition of the River Byway News was published on behalf of the Connecticut River Byway Council by the [Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission](#), [Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission](#) and [Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission](#) with funding from the National Scenic Byways Grant program.

If you are interested in writing an article for the next newsletter, please contact the Council Secretary at ctriverbyways@gmail.com



Our Byway promoted...

Yankee Magazine featured the Upper Valley Region along the Connecticut River in its July-August 2014 Edition. Click [here for more info](#).

New Hampshire Magazine included profiles on the Connecticut River in its August 2014 issue. Click [here for more info](#).

The New Hampshire Chronicle did a series of videos about New Hampshire's Byways in September 2013. Click [here for more info](#).

