

Thank You and Holiday Greetings

While honoring the past, we are mindful of the realities and challenges of the present, but take joy in each new step toward a new Schell Bridge. Your generous annual contribution helps support on-going efforts to keep members and constituents informed and energized.

Many of our members like to renew at the end of each year, although we are happy to receive membership contributions at any time. Your contribution to Friends of Schell Bridge is tax deductible. Enclosed is an envelope for your use. Please update your contact information—especially your email address.

One avenue of communication with our members is through an email service called Constant Contact. Please add both brichardson71363@gmail.com and jean@wagener.com to your contact list so that you receive the Constant Contact news of updates, events, and invitations on a timely basis. Please be sure to provide us with your current email address by sending it with your contribution or emailing it to one of the above email addresses.

Or if you prefer you can use a credit card at <http://www.schellbridge.org/joinus.html>

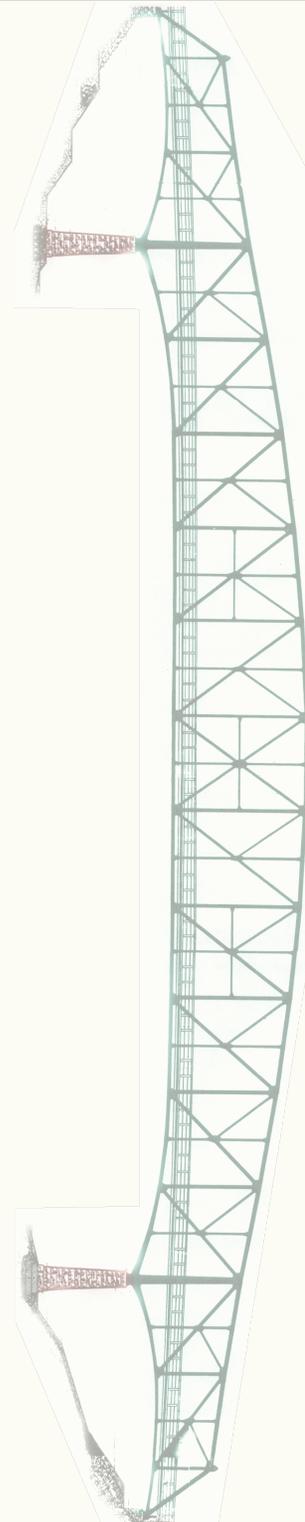
With many thanks we wish you a
Happy Holiday Season!

Friends of Schell Bridge Board of Directors



FRIENDS OF SCHELL BRIDGE
P.O. BOX 27
NORTHFIELD, MA 01360

Vision: An historically-faithful replaced bridge across the Connecticut River that serves both as a premier recreational link for a network of hiking and biking trails in the tri-state region and as a centerpiece for a series of linked riverfront parks for Northfield and area residents.



FSB Newsletter - Fall 2017

Bridge Replacement Options Narrowed

In the spring of 2017 the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (*massDOT*) brought to a town meeting eight bridge design options for replacement of Schell Memorial Bridge. These eight designs are available on the Northfield town website.

At the spring meeting *massDOT* welcomed community input, oral and written, on these options, and later received additional written comments from the community and FSB members.

In the summer of 2017 *massDOT* informed the town that the eight design options had been reduced to three. These three do indeed reflect the predominant wishes of the community.

see these three design options inside ==>

One Bridge - Two Groups

At the request of the FSB, the Northfield Selectboard appointed a nine-member town committee to work with local, regional, and state entities to advise the town and facilitate communication with Northfield residents during the design and construction of the new bridge. The Schell Bridge Advisory Committee has been working since February 2017 and shares FSB goals of incorporating elements of the old bridge and preserving the history and legacy of this Northfield treasure. Friends of Schell Bridge continues as active participants, advocates, and partners in planning for the 2021 bridge construction. Several FSB board members also serve on the advisory committee.



The Three Replacement Design Options as of the Fall of 2017

!!! Late-breaking news: another public hearing in Northfield, expected between Thanksgiving and early January, with *massDOT* on the bridge design !!!



This is a steel truss bridge, similar in structure to the current Schell. It's arch is not nearly as high as the current Schell, however, and community input was that this design was highly favored *if* the arch could be made more like the current Schell. *massDOT* says that it will consider this.



This is a tunable steel tied arch bridge. The steel horizontal deck beams are fastened to the ends of the steel arches, tying them together so that they can't spread - therefore no horizontal forces on the piers. Tunable means the tensions in the vertical cables can be optimized for dead/live loads. Community input was for a cleaner, one-height railing. *massDOT* says it will consider this.

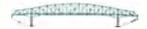


Similar to the tied arch design above, but having a cleaner railing system. The non-vertical cables are more reminiscent of the current Schell than the vertical cables; community input was mixed on vertical vs non-vertical cables. *massDOT* will consider a version with five pairs of vertical cables.

What's New ?

Don't miss the next meeting with *massDOT* on the bridge design - see note in red, top left. When scheduled FSB will inform you via Contact Contact email (see Constant Contact note elsewhere in this newsletter).

FSB elected three new directors to the board at the 2017 annual meeting: Mary Bowen, Cynthia Mead, and Steve Roberto. They bring community spirit and enthusiasm for the work ahead. All Northfield residents, each will serve a three-year term. They join current directors: Craig Della Penna, Joanne McGee, Jon McGowan, Steve Martin, Barbara Richardson, Sue Ross, Jean Wagener, and Jerry Wagener. To retiring board member, Peter Talmage: Thank you for your years of service to Schell Bridge.



In Memoriam

With regret and sadness, we inform you of the death of Alexander Stewart on October 28, 2017. Alex was a founding member of the Friends of Schell Bridge (2004) and served on the Board of Directors from that time until 2017. His wisdom, vision, and wit were always in attendance during those years and guided our planning, deliberations, and activities. Steeped in Schell Bridge history, Alex did not let that hinder his vision for the future and his imagination of what could be. He shared openly through word, story, song, and scripture. His love and devotion to Northfield inspired all who had the pleasure to know and work with him. Alex, age 93, was predeceased by his lovely wife, Hilda in 2014. Memorial services will be in Northfield on a date to be announced. Contributions can be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

