

2026 VHS Trustee Nomination Slate

Scott Andrew “Drew” Bartley, Tunbridge (1st Term)

Drew, a native of Springfield, had a couple pre-career jobs before settling in as the Manuscripts Curator and a Reference Librarian at the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston. He has been a professional genealogist since 1984. He was editor of the scholarly journals *The Mayflower Descendant* and *Vermont Genealogy*, each for ten years. He has authored ten books and many pamphlets, wrote numerous book chapters, and wrote more than 60 articles. He has lectured all around the United States. He is currently the researcher for the *Early Vermont Settlers to 1771* series of books. Two books have been published so far covering all of Windsor County. There are more than 770 individual family sketches for this project online at AmericanAncestors.org. He wrote the preeminent *The History of Fort Dummer and its Soldiers* (2024). He is a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, an independent honorary society for the leading published scholars in the field of American genealogy.

Allison Belisle, Brookfield (2nd Term)

Allison, a Burlington native, received her B.S. in Business with a concentration in Accounting from the University of Vermont. She went on to use that degree in her 36-year career with Colchester-based Vermont Information Processing (VIP). In her spare time, Allison volunteered with the Milton Historical Society acting as both President and Treasurer. Allison now lives in central Vermont, where she enjoys year-round outdoor adventures with hiking, snowshoeing, and biking. Allison’s love of history began as a child when she would wander from her home near UVM to the Fleming Museum, spending hours looking at the collection. She continues with that love of history through volunteering with the Vermont Historical Society.

Joseph Benning, Lyndon (1st Term)

Joe obtained a B.A. in Social Sciences from Lyndon State College, where he was elected the first student trustee of the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees. He was awarded a Juris Doctorate Degree from Vermont Law School and spent the next 42 years as a trial lawyer. He was appointed by then Governor Jim Douglas as chair of the Vermont Human Rights Commission. Elected to the Vermont State Senate from Caledonia County for six terms, he served as Senate Minority Leader, as Chair of Senate Institutions and Vice Chair of Senate Judiciary, and chair of several ad hoc joint and Senate committees. His favorite pastime while serving at the Statehouse was to give tours of the building to visitors from near and far. A passionate student of Vermont history, he was instrumental in the installation of a Vermont roadside historical marker at the Cedar Creek battlefield in Middletown, Virginia during the

battle's 150th anniversary. It remains the only Vermont roadside historical marker placed out of state. Presently, he is serving as Assistant Judge in Caledonia Superior Court."

Justin Brown, Waterbury Center (1st Term)

Justin Brown was born, raised, and educated in Rutland, where his family goes back generations. He graduated from Tufts University (BA, political science with minor in history) and Vermont Law School (JD; Master of Environmental Law and Policy). After beginning his legal career clerking for a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and practicing law as a litigator at a global firm in Boston, Justin returned home to Vermont in 2016. He now works in Burlington as a partner at Sheehey Furlong & Behm, where he practices complex civil litigation. Justin also serves as an officer and Judge Advocate in the Vermont Air National Guard. He has served on the board of the Vermont Bar Association and Green Up Vermont. He currently serves as a member of the Vermont Judicial Nominating Board. A lifelong student of Vermont's history, Justin is particularly interested in the people, places, and stories that have shaped the Green Mountain State, and in preserving those stories for future generations. He lives in Waterbury Center with his wife and young son and enjoys all activities that Vermont's landscape offers (skiing, hiking, and biking in the mountains; running on dirt roads; and swimming in rivers and lakes).

Chris Keyser, Rutland (1st Term)

Chris Keyser was born in the old Barre Hospital to F. Ray Keyser Jr and Joan Keyser. He grew up in Chelsea, VT and attended Chelsea Grade School. This was the home of his father's family. In 1965, the family moved to Proctor, VT where his younger brother, sister and he graduated from Proctor Jr/Sr High School. After University, he worked at Quechee Lakes and later moved back to Proctor to raise his family, where he owned and ran a business. He sold his interest in 2011 and retired in 2019.

His hobbies include skiing, hunting and fishing, golf, and woodworking. Chris has been deeply involved with local, state and national organizations. Locally he is the past chair and, on the BOD, and current Treasurer of the CEDRR (Chamber & Economic Development of Rutland Region), Chair of the Killington Music Festival, past treasurer of the Vermont Farmers Food Center, Past and Current Chair of Rutland Mental Health Services and past president of the Rutland City Rotary. Current member of the Vermont House of Representatives: 2025 to present.

Eliot Lathrop, Huntington (1st Term)

Eliot Hays Lothrop grew up in Concord, New Hampshire, and after moving to Vermont 25 years ago, has spent nearly all that time preserving and restoring timber-frame buildings across the

state. Eliot studied architecture at Hobart College and went on to earn an M.S. in Historic Preservation from the University of Vermont. He then spent several years in the field before founding Building Heritage in 2004. The company specializes in stabilizing, repairing, and restoring barns and other historic structures. Their projects include the American Flatbread Lareau Farm Barn in Waitsfield, the Mansfield Barn in Jericho, the Martin covered bridge in Marshfield, and the East Monitor Barn in Richmond. Eliot also teaches timber framing and historic preservation through UVM's Historic Preservation Program and with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC). In 2025, he helped launch VYCC's timber-framing pre-apprenticeship program, which is now in its second year and has doubled in size to train eight young people over 21 weeks. Eliot lives in Huntington with his wife, Mary, and their two children; he and Mary are both active with the Huntington Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department.

Beth Quimby, Lyndon (1st Term)

Beth Quimby is a lifelong resident of the Northeast Kingdom. She received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in mathematics from the University of Vermont, where she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Beth taught middle school mathematics for over 30 years, retiring in 2023. She has been a member of the Vermont House of Representatives since March 2024. Beth is the fifth generation of her family to serve in the Vermont Legislature. She is a Corporator for Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, a Justice of the Peace for the town of Lyndon and serves on the boards of two local history groups: The Concord Historical Society, and The Victory Granby Holiday in the Hills Historical Preservation Group.

Cara Zimmerman, Stowe (1st Full Term)

Cara brings extensive experience in public education policy and leadership to the board of trustees. As Chair of both the Stowe School Board and the Lamoille South Supervisory Union School Board, Cara has demonstrated a deep commitment to fostering excellence in education and supporting strong school communities. Professionally, Cara has served as Director of Policy Services and Legislative Affairs at the Vermont School Boards Association, where strategic vision and collaboration were instrumental in driving policy advancements that benefit students, educators, and families across the state. In this role, Cara also supported school boards by writing model policies and delivering school board training to enhance governance and effectiveness, and ensure compliance with state open meeting laws. Residing in Stowe with her husband and three children, Cara embraces an active and engaged lifestyle, and can often be found skiing, running, hiking with her dog, or playing tennis. A lover of books and meaningful connections, Cara cherishes time spent reading and catching up with family and friends.