



TOWN OF MERRIMACK, NH

6 BABOOSIC LAKE ROAD • MERRIMACK, NH 03054 • WWW.MERRIMACKNH.GOV

February 22, 2021

Matt Casparius, Director, Merrimack Parks and Recreation
116 Naticook Road
Merrimack, NH 03054

RE: Merrimack 275th Anniversary Project

Dear Matt,

The Merrimack Town Center Committee (TCC) was very favorably impressed by the presentation by the Merrimack 275th Anniversary Committee made to the TCC at their meeting of 15 January 2021.

This letter is to advise that in discussions following the presentation, the TCC voted unanimously to support the construction of a type of Covered Bridge on the Twin Bridge Park property over the Baboosic Brook as described in the presentation given by Mr. Chuck Mower. Such a bridge would provide additional recreational opportunities within the Twin Bridge Park and further enhance the ability of Merrimack citizens to enjoy their Town Center. The trail over the bridge will connect to the sidewalk planned for the 2021-22 sidewalk construction on Twin Bridge Road and the pedestrian way through the Merrimack Shopping Center (Tractor Supply).

Adding coverage to the bridge over the Baboosic Brook is consistent with the Town of Merrimack Master Plan and with the Town of Merrimack Town Center Plan.

Thank you for undertaking this project.

Nelson R. Disco
Nelson R. Disco, Chairman, TCC

Cc: Kyle Fox, Merrimack PWD Director
Eileen Cabanel, Town Manager
Merrimack Town Council
Merrimack 275th Anniversary Committee
Merrimack Town Center Committee

Assessing P: 603-424-5136 F: 603-424-0461	Community Development P: 603-424-3531 F: 603-424-1408	Finance P: 603-424-7075 F: 603-424-0516	Human Resources P: 603-424-2331 F: 603-424-0461	Media Services P: 603-423-8561 F: 603-424-0461
Public Assistance P: 603-423-8535 F: 603-424-0516	Public Works Administration P: 603-424-5137 F: 603-424-1408	Town Council P: 603-424-2331 F: 603-424-0461	Town Manager P: 603-424-2331 F: 603-424-0461	

March 3, 2021

To The Merrimack Town Council,

The value of commemorating 275 years of community lies not in how we may celebrate the past, but in how we may celebrate the future.

What might our citizens one hundred years hence point to with pride and affection for predecessor's wisdom in having provided for their commonwealth?

The remembrance committee of the 250th anniversary gave us the Abbie Griffin bandstand with the hope that it would provide a platform for entertainment and culture in the center of our town. And that it would stand as an iconic symbol for what we as citizens can create; perhaps, more deeply, what character Abbie Griffin, and people like her, left to the future that she would never know.

There was a reverence for our two covered bridges. They were not just some bucolic imagery; though that in itself may well have been enough. They made couples young and old kiss in passing through. They were engineered marvels of river crossings, bringing us closer to each other and the things we needed to share. They were scenic vistas from which we watched the rivers and fields and woods and all that lived within sight. They were a testament to the skills of master craftsmen and their tools. They stood as reminders of self reliance, perseverance, patience and ingenuity.

Ever since the loss of our covered bridges there has been an unsatisfied lament that an important part of our town is gone forever. But that need for restoration can be met, and simultaneously provide for our future, with the creation of a true covered bridge in Twin Bridges Park.

Twin Bridges Park was acquired a hundred years ago by far seeing forefathers of Merrimack unknown to most of us today. Recognizing the unique geology and picturesque nature of the parcel; they wanted to protect it from exploitation and leave it to future generations of residents to enjoy. Many of them worked in the great depression of the 1930s to replace the original bridges with two concrete bridges spanning Baboosic brook. Recently, the Town of Merrimack replaced one of the bridges that had decayed and was damaged. From an historic perspective, this location and bridges was the first road in Merrimack; laid out when we were part of the Narragansett Land Grants. Narragansett no 5 was given in payment to the soldiers who fought in King Phillips war.

The good effects that can accrue to the public as a whole are almost too numerous to particularize. With all this in mind, I offer the following proposal:

That we fund and build an authentic Covered Bridge at Twin Bridge Park. This may be accomplished by installing the bridge directly over the top of the present concrete structure without disturbing any of the abutments or span. This would also have the effect of preserving the existing bridge and archeological site while offering a new attraction to an increasing use of public space.

I look forward to a discussion of the merits with all who are interested and make myself available to do so.

Charles H. Mower
4 Depot St.
Merrimack NH
603-424-1200

The Grist Mill Covered Bridge



The Grist Mill Covered Bridge



The Grist Mill Covered Bridge

Above, are photos of a concept we hope to realize for today and our future generations.

- **Baboosic, is the Pennacook Indian name for “TWINS”.**
- **A quote from *Andy Goldsworthy***
“Winter makes a bridge between one year and another and, in this case, one century and the next”.

Below is the turnkey quote for the Grist Mill Covered Bridge over Baboosic Brook at Twin Bridges Park. Graton Associates is eager to work with us.

RESTORATION CONSERVATIONIST



US Rte. 3
PO Box 174
Holderness, NH 03245
cell 603-448-8592
603-968-9574 • 603-968-3621

ARNOLD M. GRATON
Master Bridge Wright
amgraton@gmail.com

Arnoldmgraton.com

February 12, 2021

RE: Twin Bridges Park Covered Bridge, Merrimack, NH

Mr. Charles Mower

Charles.mower@gmail.com

Dear Charles:

The following is an estimate for the construction of a covered bridge in Twin Bridges Park.

The Grist Mill Covered Bridge

Construct Town Lattice covered bridge with walkway and built-in camber.

5-Rib Metal Roof

Dimensions; 60' long, 12' inside to inside

Sidewalk; 3'

Tone Abutments

Cost of above construction inclusive of moving the bridge into place as designated using Oxen and Capstan winch.

Total
cost.....\$450,000

Note: Above cost of items in inclusive of all components

Cost is an estimate; price may vary depending on pricing of materials, fuel, etc.

Please feel free to call or email with any questions.

Arnold M. Graton

Tim Dansereau

President

Vice President

The Remembrance Committee:

Charles Mower, John Lastowka, Laurie Rothhaus, Rosemarie Rung, Chip Pollard