



AMHERST *Massachusetts*

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Article 9. Temporary Easements – Mill Street Bridge

In 2012 the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Mass DOT) recommended closing the Mill Street Bridge after an annual inspection. The Bridge has severe corrosion along the two outside girders and heavy scouring along both abutments. The Town closed the bridge and began an extensive outreach project to develop a preliminary design for a project to replace the bridge. After many meetings by the Public Works Committee a concept was recommended to the Select Board. The recommended concept was a bridge with one lane of traffic going in the southerly direction with a multi-use path on the east (dam) side of the bridge. The Select Board accepted this concept and forwarded it to Mass DOT District 2 for inclusion in the State's local bridge replacement projects.

The Mill Street Bridge project has moved along in the Mass DOT process and has reached the 25% design phase. The project is on track to be bid for construction in the late summer 2017, with a construction start of October 2017 and a one year/season construction window. It is currently planned as a "foot print bridge project," meaning it will stay within the existing road layout and not extend past the current bridge structure in width. The Bridge will be lengthened by about 10 feet to accommodate the new stream crossing standards. All cost for the bridge replacement will be from Federal and State Bridge Funds. The estimated cost at this time is roughly \$ 2,570,539.06.

To keep the project on track the Town is required to acquire the required temporary easements or right of entries.

<u>Owner</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map and</u>	<u>Area (SF)</u>
David S. Sharken	64 Mill St.	5B-15	1,311
Jones Properties	149-179 Summer St	5B-17	965
Joshua and Judith	172 State Street	5B-32	4,496
	5 Mill Street	5B-31	1,372

This article will authorize the Select Board to take the necessary steps to do this and keep the project on schedule. If during the discussions with the property owners it is determined that monetary compensation is required and a funding source is needed a article would be prepared for Annual Town Meeting.

There are two easements shown in yellow on the map that are on conservation land and will be handled by the Conservation Commission by a license agreement.

