

East Montpelier Trails, Inc
November 9, 2023

East Montpelier Select Board
East Montpelier, Vermont

Dear Select Board members,

I am writing on behalf of East Montpelier Trails, Inc (EMTI) to submit this proposal for funding through ARPA. We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) operating in East Montpelier since 1994.

I have listed below two major projects ahead for the EMTI trail board. They are listed in order of priority, and scale. We hope the Select Board will see the value in funding one or both of these projects.

1. Mallory Brook Bridge.

We respectfully request \$14,500 for construction of a bridge over the Mallory brook on the conserved property owned by Chris Pratt of East Montpelier. Chris has given his approval for the bridge design and the proposed location. We are working with Josh Ryan of Timber and Stone Trail Construction on both the location and bridge design which is the same design as the new bridge built by Timber and Stone in 2023 on the Bobolink Farm, LLC property on Towne Hill Road. (see photo below). The bridge spans 40' with steel I-beams anchored into crushed stone-filled abutments. The decking is rot resistant black locust and the rails are constructed with locally sourced cedar.

Estimate for the project

Bridge, including materials and installation \$14,500. Please see the attached detailed estimate from Timber and Stone, LLC.

Background

The Mallory Brook trail is the “crown jewel” of the East Montpelier trail network. Lying at the center of the town of East Montpelier, the segment originates on Johnson Road and, with a bridge in place, continues through to Towne Hill Road. It essentially connects the two public schools, and is used by both schools for recreation and science and nature study. The Mallory Brook is a dynamic water system flowing through a diverse, generally wet environment of old growth cedar, majestic pines, balsam, and hemlock. EMTI has invested thousands of dollars in Federal, Town and private funds in addition to countless hours of volunteer labor in constructing a navigable path through this wild environment. We would love to restore a through connection for this trail.

The former VYCC bridge, constructed of hemlock beams and split cedar decking, failed in 2015 after 10 years of use. Ten years is the expected life of the hemlock logs which spanned the brook. Since then we rerouted the brook crossing to a new location where trail users are able to cross by rock hopping in low water flow times of year only. This manner of crossing presents a serious danger to a majority of the trail users for most of the year.

photo: 2023 new bridge on Bobolink Farm, also proposed for Mallory Brook



Timber & Stone, LLC
Conservation Minded Construction

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Project Estimate: November 8, 2023

To:
Mary Stone
EMT
East Montpelier, VT

**Mallory Brook Trail Bridge
East Montpelier, VT**

Work Description –	
Trail Bridge – 40 Feet Long	
Materials* –	
• Steel Beams, Pressure Treated Sills, Crushed Stone Base	\$ 3,456.00
• Black Locust Decking	\$ 1,575.00
• Cedar Railing, Hardware	\$ 735.00
Equipment Rental –	
• Polaris Ranger, Trailer	\$ 400.00
• Ditch Witch Sk1550 Mini Skid Steer	\$ 250.00
• Rigging for Import over Brook	\$ 250.00
Construction Labor – Mobilization, Construction, Cleanup, and Demobilization	\$ 7,825.00
*Material price subject to change in 2024 due to market price	
Estimate Total =	\$ 14,491.00

This quote is relevant to the 2023 Construction Season and includes the following:
Professional Trail Construction Labor
Timber & Stone, LLC Liability Insurance and Administrative Overhead
Crew Mobilization, Specialty Tools, and Equipment Expenses

This Quote is Design/Build Based and is Subject to Change Based on the Following:
Change in Trail Design Before Start of Construction
Change Order of Trail Design After Start of Construction

2. Sparrow Farm boardwalk replacement

The current ~700' boardwalk on the Sparrow Farm trail was built primarily by MAMBA (Montpelier Area Mountain Bike Association) volunteers with materials purchased by EMTI in 2016. The native lumber used on the boardwalk is reaching the end of its life expectancy, showing signs of rot and the entire structure needs replacement.

Estimate supplied by EMTI and MAMBA member Rick Hopkins

Replacement boardwalk would utilize:

40 8' long pressure treated 6x6 sills
85 16' long pressure treated stringers
50 12' long untreated hemlock 2"x6"x36" treads

estimated cost of materials: \$4200

cost of labor: \$0 (removal of old material and construction)

use of pressure treated sills and stringers means future replacement efforts will only need to consider replacing the treads. The use of pt materials is contingent on landowner approval.

In Summary

Both projects are needed and represent excellent recreational infrastructure investments in our town. Both projects would occur on trails protected in perpetuity. Mallory Brook crossing will provide a safe option for all users crossing the brook year round regardless of streamflow conditions. Sparrow Farm boardwalk is part of a well used highly valued year round off road connector route to/from Montpelier.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Stone
East Montpelier Trails Co-Chair