



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016

AT

**TOWN HALL
4 BOLTWOOD AVENUE
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS**

7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

**Bridge Replacement, Bridge No. A-08-008
Mill Street over Mill River
AMHERST, MA
Project No. 607528
Bridge Project Management Section**

IN THE TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION**

**THOMAS J. TINLIN
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER**

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Project File No. 607528

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed reconstruction of the Mill Street Bridge over the Mill River in the Town of Amherst.

WHERE: Town Hall
4 Boltwood Avenue
Amherst, MA 01002

WHEN: Thursday, November 15, 2016 at 7:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to inform the public of the proposed Mill Street bridge replacement project and to provide an opportunity for public question and comment. All questions and comments raised at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent practicable.

PROPOSAL: The roadway will be slightly realigned both horizontally and vertically to fit within the existing roadway layout. A new bridge will be built in approximately the same location with a slightly longer span to accommodate wildlife passage. Work within the river channel will be required to provide scour protection to the abutment footings. A multi-use path for bikes and pedestrians will be constructed across the bridge. Roadway work will occur for approximately 300 feet south of the bridge and approximately 100 feet north of the bridge. The bridge will be closed to vehicles and pedestrians for the duration of construction.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The town is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be discussed at this hearing.

Written comments received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the hearing shall be displayed for public inspection and copying at the time and date listed above. Plans will be on display one-half hour before the hearing begins, with an engineer in attendance to answer questions regarding this project. A project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below.

Written statements and other exhibits in place of, or in addition to, oral statements made at the Public Hearing regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Bridge Project Management Section, Project File No. 607528. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked within ten (10) business days of this Public Hearing. Project inquiries may be emailed to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us

This location is accessible to persons with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

In case of inclement weather, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted online at <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/>

THOMAS J. TINLIN
ADMINISTRATOR

PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Stephanie Pollack, Secretary & CEO
Frank DePaola, Administrator



Dear Concerned Citizen:

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is committed to building and maintaining a transportation infrastructure that is both safe and efficient for all who use our roadways, bridges, bicycle facilities and pedestrian paths, while maintaining the integrity of the environment.

As part of the design process for this project, we are conducting this public hearing to explain the proposed improvements, listen to your comments and answer any questions you may have. At the conclusion of the hearing, MassDOT will review all of your comments and, where feasible, incorporate them into the design of the project.

We recognize that road and bridge construction can create inconveniences for the public. MassDOT places a great deal of emphasis on minimizing the temporary disruptive effects of construction.

MassDOT encourages input from local communities and values your opinions. Please be assured that we will undertake no project without addressing the concerns of the community.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E.
Chief Engineer

WHAT IS A PUBLIC HEARING?

WHY A PUBLIC HEARING?

To provide an assured method whereby the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can furnish to the public information concerning the State's highway construction proposals, and to afford every interested resident of the area an opportunity to be heard on any proposed project. At the same time, the hearings afford the Commonwealth an additional opportunity to receive information from local sources which would be of value to the State in making its final decisions to what design should be advanced for development.

WHY NOT A VOTE ON HIGHWAY PLANS?

The hearings are not intended to be a popular referendum for the purpose of determining the nature of a proposed improvement by a majority of those present. They do not relieve the duly constituted officials of a State highway department of the necessity for making decisions in State highway matters for which they are charged with full responsibility.

WHAT DOES A PUBLIC HEARING ACCOMPLISH?

It is designed to ensure the opportunity for, or the availability of, a forum to provide factual information which is pertinent to the determination of the final alternative considered by the state to best serve the public interest, and on which improvement projects are proposed to be undertaken.

It is important that the people of the area express their views in regard to the proposal being presented, so that views can be properly recorded in the minutes of the meeting. These minutes will be carefully studied and taken into consideration in the determination of the final design.

RIGHT OF WAY ISSUES

A secure right of way is necessary for this project. Temporary construction easements may be required. Your municipality is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in private or public lands. If your property is affected, your rights are fully protected under law.

1. REASON FOR PROJECT

The completion of this project will serve local needs. The proposed enhancement will also be in the interest of others in the greater community, and provide for the public good.

2. WHO CONTACTS ME?

Representatives of the municipality have already contacted or will contact you. They will explain the procedures used in acquiring any necessary rights in land.

3. WHAT ABOUT DONATIONS? WHAT IS A RIGHT OF ENTRY?

Town officials will often seek donations, of parcels, where permanent rights are required. This procedure will minimize the acquisition cost for your community.

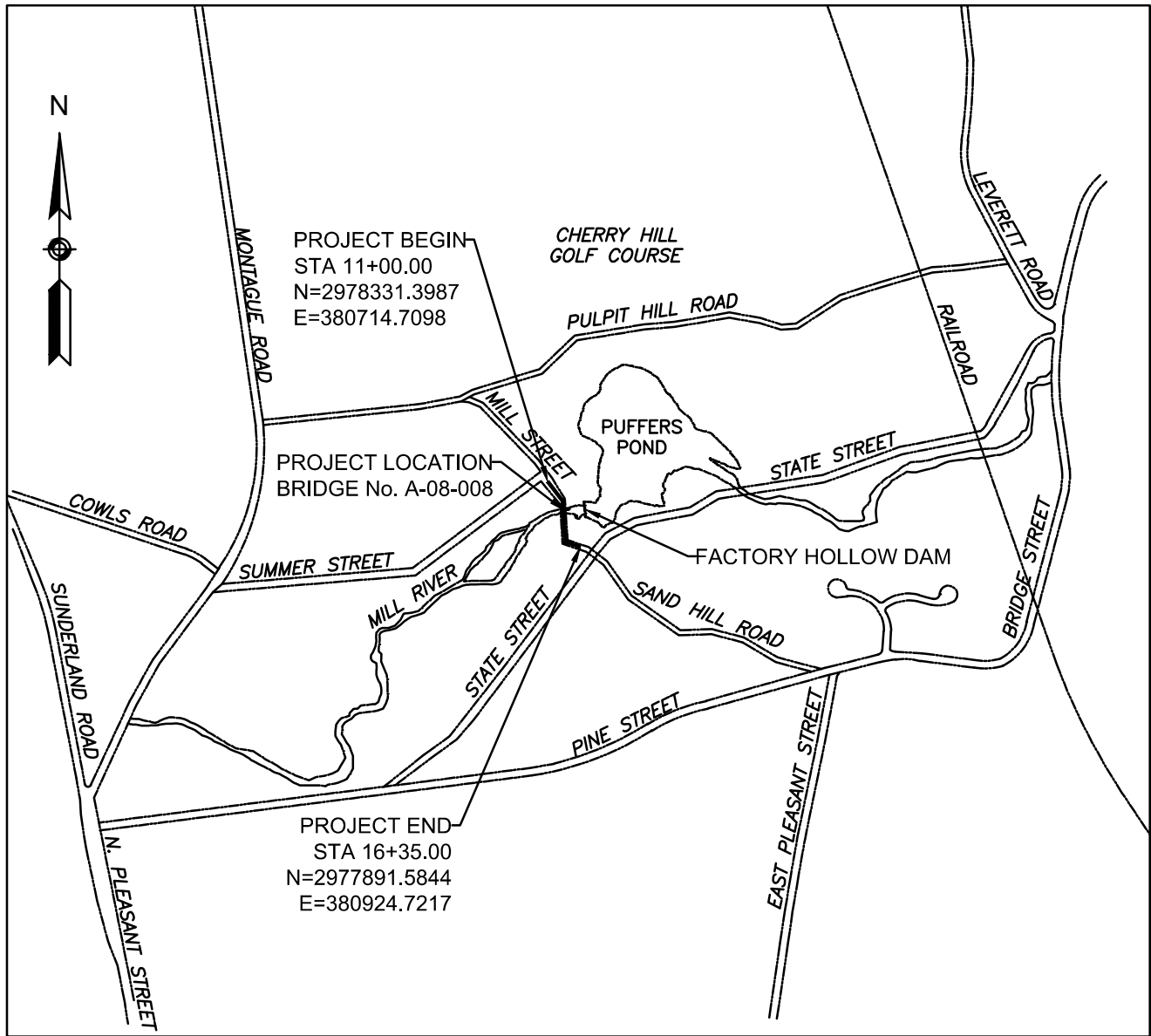
A Right of Entry is a document that is signed by the owner. It allows the Contractor to perform certain types of work on the owner's land. The work is usually minor in nature and frequently consists of loaming/seeding behind sidewalks, new driveway apron work, grading/sloping, and wetland protection, etc. The rights granted are temporary in nature.

4. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR THE ACQUIRED PARCELS?

In the event that donations are not considered, or completed, every effort will be made to ensure that an equitable value is awarded. Municipal and/or outside appraisers will complete an appraisal. Consideration is given to the type of rights needed, whether in fee, permanent or temporary easements. The appraisal will be the basis for arriving at a fair price (for damages that result).

5. MUST I ACCEPT THE MUNICIPALITY OFFER?

No, if the owner feels that the offer is not fair the owner may petition the courts. This action does not stop or delay the acquisition. The action must occur within 3 years. The owner(s) may be paid pro tanto (for the time being). The pro tanto payment will not prejudice the court's final decision.



LOCATION MAP
MILL STREET OVER MILL RIVER
AMHERST, MA
 SCALE: 1"=1000'

Amherst, Massachusetts
Mill Street over Mill River
Project Description

Purpose and Need: This project proposes replacement of the Mill Street Bridge over the Mill River in Amherst. The existing single span bridge is deficient with deterioration throughout and must be replaced. The abutments have major deterioration, which will also be replaced.

Location and Limits: The bridge is located on Mill Street over the Mill River. The project limits extend from approximately 300 feet south of the bridge to a point approximately 100 feet north of the bridge.

Existing Conditions: The bridge was closed in 2012. Based upon traffic counts performed in 2004 and projected forward, it has an estimated average daily traffic of approximately 1430 vehicles per day for 2016. When active, traffic volume was typically low and consisted predominantly of passenger vehicles. The bridge carried two-way traffic in northerly and southerly directions. The southbound approach to the bridge begins at a “T” intersection with Summer Street. The northbound approach to the bridge begins at a four way intersection of Mill Street, State Street and Sand Hill Road. The bridge is on a tangent section of Mill Street between these two intersections. Mill Street has a design speed of 30 miles per hour.

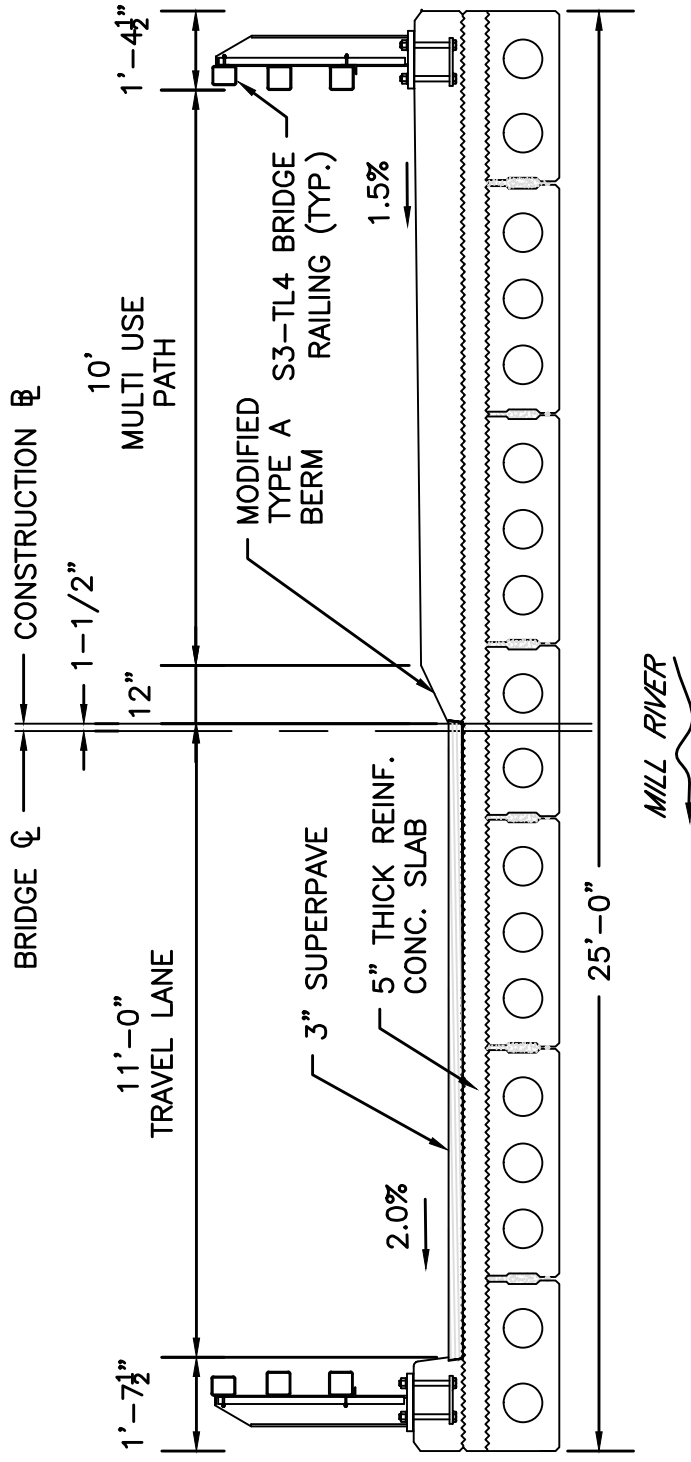
The Mill River provides essential habitat for Rare and Endangered species as identified by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program for the Wood Turtle (reptile) and the Bridle Shiner (fish).

The existing bridge, constructed in 1906, and reconstructed in 1983, is a steel stringer bridge with reinforced concrete and corrugated deck, consisting of one simple span of approximate length 34'-0". The bridge sits skewed to the abutments at an angle of 10⁰-00'-00". The maximum width of the bridge deck is 20'-2". Prior to closure of the bridge two-way traffic is carried by two, 9'-6" wide, travel lanes for a total roadway width of 19'-0" and there were no accommodations for pedestrian or bicycle traffic. The roadway surface itself consists of bituminous concrete (hot mix asphalt). The bridge is supported on cast-in-place concrete gravity abutments founded on old masonry retaining walls. An 8" cast iron gravity sewer line spans the bridge structure on the east side, supported by a steel girder. An 8" cast iron water line is buried beneath the river approximately 8' west of the structure. There are no overhead electrical or communication lines that span above the bridge structure.

Proposed Improvements: The proposed bridge will be wider, 25'-0" out-to-out to accommodate two 1'-0" shoulders, a 9'-0" vehicular travel lane, and a shared 10'-0" multi use pedestrian/bicycle sidewalk. The bridge will be limited to one-way southbound travel for vehicular traffic along Mill Street. It is anticipated that the height of the bridge over the river will be lowered approximately 1 foot to improve the approach angle profile of the existing roadway to the new bridge. The proposed bridge superstructure will be precast concrete deck beams with a concrete reinforced deck. The proposed abutments will be new reinforced concrete, cast in place. The hydraulic opening of the abutments will be increased approximately 1.2 times its current width. Steel bridge rail and highway guardrail are proposed alongside the travel ways. The new bridge will accommodate a traffic load similar to that of the existing bridge. Improvements will be made to advanced warning signage, and new pavement markings.

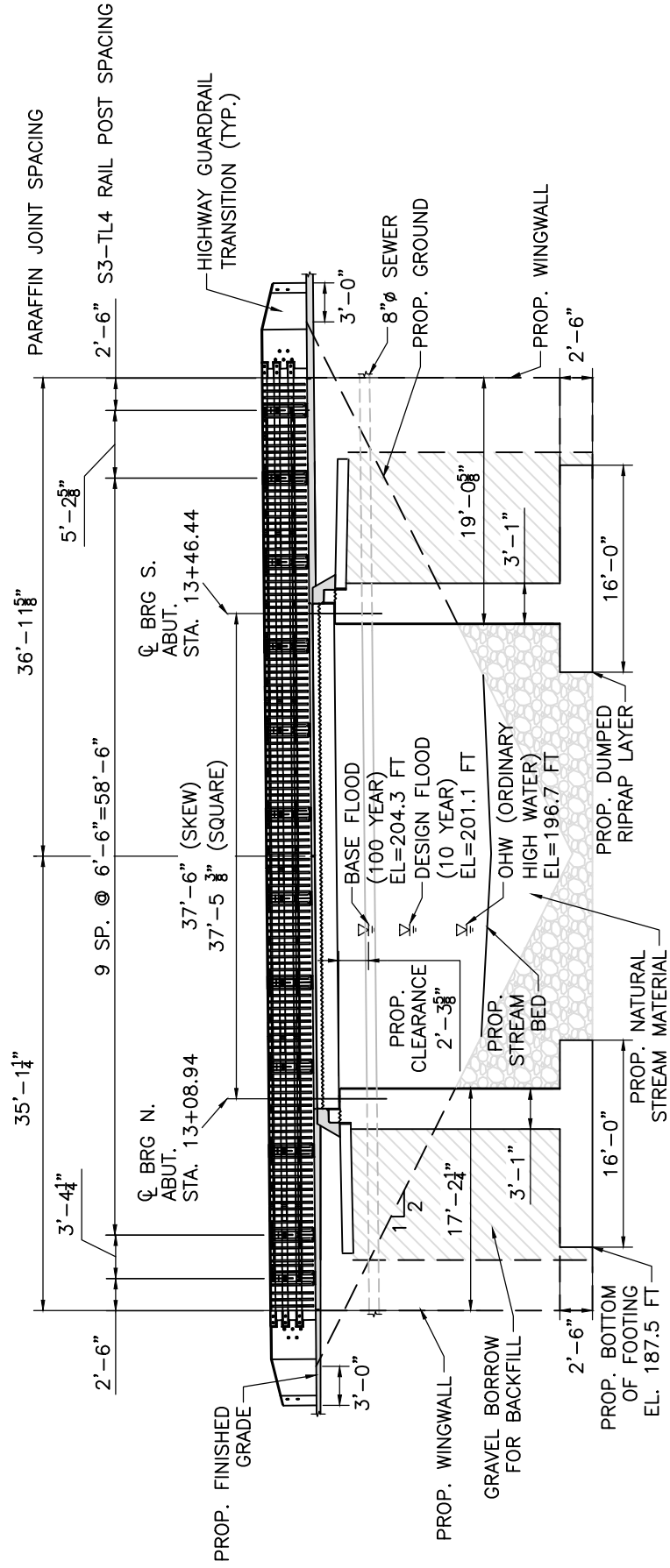
Avoidance, Minimization and Mitigation Measures: Accelerated construction techniques will be considered to minimize construction time and impacts to traffic. The Mill Street Bridge will be closed to all vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian traffic during demolition and construction while traffic is detoured. Erosion controls in the form of compost filter tubes will be installed to mitigate any potential impact from roadway runoff. A number of alternatives for permanent stormwater treatment will be evaluated.

Permitting Status: This project will result in a bridge that maintains a similar horizontal and vertical alignment to the existing bridge. Therefore, this project is exempt from review pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act and Chapter 91. It is anticipated that this project will not result in the permanent fill of any wetlands. This project will require a filing with the Army Corps of Engineers for temporary work within Waters of the United States. Mill River is not listed as a Wild and Scenic River. The Contractor will be responsible for preparing, filing, and complying with a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.



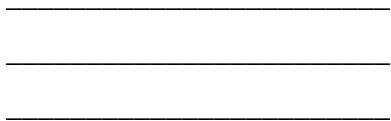
PROPOSED BRIDGE CROSS SECTION

SCALE: NONE



LONGITUDINAL SECTION

Please Fold and Tape



Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E.
Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Public Hearing
Mill Street over Mill River
Amherst
Project File No. 607528
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