



Pathway to Learning

February 7, 2024

Amesbury Conservation Commission
39 S Hunt Road
Amesbury, MA 01913

RE: Proposal for development of a universal access bridge (UAB)

Dear Chairman Broadrick and Commissioners:

The teachers at Shay Elementary would like to submit this proposal for the development of a bridge between the Shay Memorial Lower Elementary School and the adjacent fields of Woodsom Farm. The site currently has a pathway, but our intent is to improve it through the installation of a universally accessible bridge (UAB). As the proposed improved path will connect school property, Shay Elementary School with city property, Woodsom Farm, we are seeking a request for determination of applicability, which will allow us to proceed with our proposed bridge. Our goal is to take what is a rough, pre-existing path and provide a smooth accessible bridge for students to explore the nature area of Woodsom Farm. The proposed universal access bridge will blend with the surroundings, enhance the natural splendor and quality of life for our students, staff and our community.

- We hope for this project to be funded through a grant from the Amesbury Educational Foundation, Inc (AEFI).
- The design of the UAB will meet the requirements of the Massachusetts Agricultural Access Board (MAAB) regulations (SMR Title 521) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 as amended (42 USC 12101). Trail grading, materials and amenities must be designed to accommodate universal access including wheelchair access and use by those who are visually impaired.
- Design and construction will meet current MAAB requirements, connecting existing features and accessible routes on site to the extent practical but will not be required to renovate or replace features outside the intended scope.
- Existing conditions information is limited but will be provided if available.
- If required, we will seek the input and evaluation of the Amesbury Open Space Committee

1.0 Scope of Work

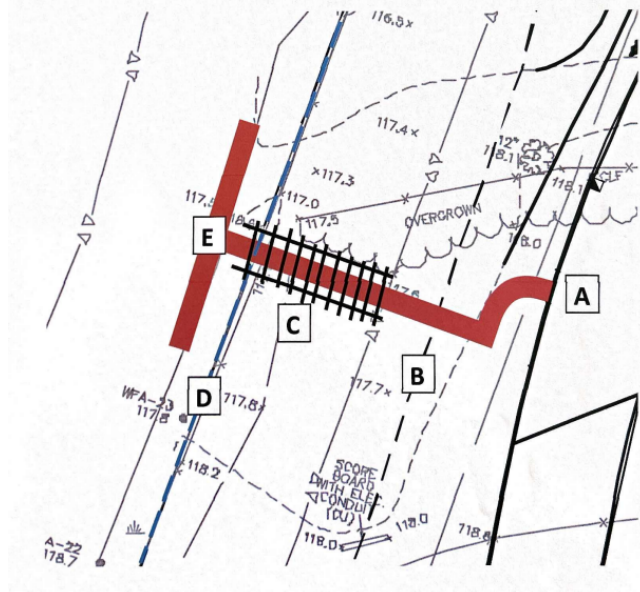


- 1.1 **Site Selection:** Site Selection is predetermined by the existing rough pathway that has been in use at that site for decades. Cashman School students and teachers have used it on a regular basis to access the areas within Woodsom for instructional purposes.
- 1.2 **Analysis and Base Mapping:** Analysis and Base Mapping has been done utilizing the original maps and orthophotos from the Shay building project and City of Amesbury topographical resources.
- 1.3 **Conceptual Design:** Conceptual Design is based on trail bridges that have been constructed and are in use within the Rail Trail in Salisbury, MA. Construction based on those designs will be carried out by Tebou Carpentry of Amesbury, MA.
- 1.4 **Field Analysis and Feasibility** Field Analysis and Feasibility will include feature documentation, site photography and proposed .
- 1.5 **Schematic Design and Outreach:** We will provide public information through the grant approval process and provide an online presence to update our community on the progress of the project.

2.0 Timeline

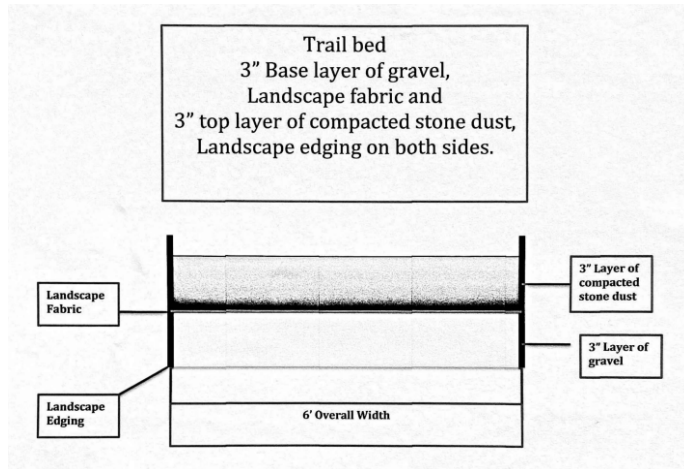
- 2.1 Application for Request for Determination of Applicability submitted to DEP and Amesbury Conservation Commission on February 16th
- 2.2 Following a positive finding with regard to our Order of Conditions, submit grant proposal to the Amesbury Educational Foundation for the Spring Award Cycle
- 2.3 Following the awarding of AEFI grants in April, site work can begin (Minimal earthwork required for bridge footings and installation of stone dust for the .)
- 2.4 Construction of the bridge and installation of hardscaping (anticipated summer 2024)
- 2.5 Ribbon cutting and grand opening in August of 2024

Shay Memorial Elementary School
Pathway to Learning
Topographical Plan (based on initial
grade information)





Sgt. Jordan Shay Memorial Lower Elementary School
193 Lion's Mouth Road, Amesbury MA 01913





Sgt. Jordan Shay Memorial Lower Elementary School
193 Lion's Mouth Road, Amesbury MA 01913

