

Richard Lewis

From: Kama Ross
Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 5:50 PM
To: Richard Lewis
Subject: Fwd: Bridge decking, railings and posts

I apologize but I just can't go along with the bids on the bridge. Every bone in my forester body says this is wrong. I have emailed a ton of black locust lumber companies and local contractors who have worked with this true winner of a wood and I am not going to approve any bid without doing more work that proves that black locust is the best choice. I do hate to make more work for anyone, especially you. I just don't understand how Machin, Fishers or Easling... could not find a source for this native, rot resistant wood. I hope to have some more costs nailed down by Tuesday 1 pm.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robi Sales <sales@robidecking.com>
Date: October 13, 2024 at 5:42:55 PM EDT
To: Kama Ross <kross@leelanau.gov>
Subject: Re: Bridge decking, railings and posts

Kama, happy to help. I am shocked about the lpe, it is going on the endangered species list in a few weeks, and most folks with any care about environmental issues have stopped using it.

Thermally modified wood looks really good, but is not lasting very long as the grain structure of the wood is removed and it has issues if subjected to moisture.

Happy to chat tomorrow.

Thanks,

Sales Team
Robi Decking
336.365.2850
sales@robidecking.com

We have FSC® Certification (FSC-C109137)

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On Sun, Oct 13, 2024 at 5:24 PM Kama Ross <kross@leelanau.gov> wrote:

We are replacing the wood on a bridge over a river dam in Leland Michigan in our historic Fishtown. The bids received want to use lpe or Thermally Modified Ash. As a retired forester, I know Black Locust would be a better wood. Can you please call me for some information to share with my fellow County Board Members before Tuesday? We need 380 sq. Ft. Of decking, 184 linear feet of railing and 37 posts. I would very much appreciate a call tomorrow to help me delay the awarding of this bid using the wrong material.

Thank you
Kama Ross 231-920-4055
Sent from my iPad

Richard Lewis

From: Kama Ross
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 11:53 AM
To: Richard Lewis
Subject: Fwd: Form Submission - Black Locust
Attachments: httpswww.leelanau.govdownloads/caorfp2024007_leland_dam_pedestrian_bridge_surface_railing_final.pdf

Again, I know I am making life harder for many people I care about, but this issue of using black locust is just part of who I have been as a professional forester my entire career. If I actually make a motion to table this project and focus on redoing the rep - will you be unhappy? I just feel like this was not vetted by Machin and it's my fault for assuming that contractors are familiar with this sustainable/rot resistant historic species. It is harder to work with but maybe again, we use this project to future the green construction world forward in a county that depends on it's natural resources for it's existence.

I'm heading to the Indigenous Day event in Leland, then will see you at the airport. Maybe we could have a quick chat after that meeting? I'm having conversations with area/regional professionals that I trust and it is becoming clearer to me that I have to be a voice here.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kingdom Forestry <sales@kingdomforestryproducts.com>
Date: October 14, 2024 at 10:38:07 AM EDT
To: Kama Ross <kross@leelanau.gov>
Subject: Re: Form Submission - Black Locust

Kama,

I found the plan online and put together a quote for you. There could be a large savings if you went with a common grade 5/4 x 6 (1"x5.5" nominal) deck board - estimated at \$14,000. I believe your engineers would need to approve this. Same with the railing cap; both of which would be about half the cost.

Walkway Bridge - Quote per Plan

	Size	PCS	PCS w/ 10% extra	Cost per PCS	Exte
35 LF of 5-6' wide decking	2x6	76	84	\$79.74	\$6
36 LF of 8' wide decking	2x6	79	87	\$106.32	\$9
Posts - 48" tall	4x4	37	41	\$41.32	\$1
Railing - 48" long	2x4	35	39	\$32.68	\$1
Railing - 48" long	2x6	35	39	\$53.16	\$2

Cap Railing - 140 LF (8' Long)	2x6	18	20	\$106.32	\$2
Wood Sleeper - - 140 LF (random length)	2x6	140	154	\$13.29	\$2
Est. S/H					\$2
Total Quote					\$2

Sincerely,
 Jeffrey D. Rarick
 Owner, Kingdom Forestry Products
www.KingdomForestryProducts.com
 C: 315-350-4948

On Oct 13, 2024, at 5:11 PM, Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info> wrote:

Sent via form submission from Kingdom Forestry Products

I am a : Property Owner

Name: Kama Ross

Company Name: Leelanau County Michigan

Email Address: kross@leelanau.gov

Phone (mobile preferred) : (231) 920-4055

Zip Code: 49682

Approximate Square Footage: 380

Special Requests : This is for a municipal bridge over a river dam connecting a restaurant to a hotel in a historic district on Lake Michigan. We need 380 sq.ft. Of decking, 134 linear feet of railing and 37 rail posts. The contractor says they can't find Black Locust so want to use Ipe or Thermally Modified Ash. As a retired Forester, I know that Black Locust would be the superior and probably the least expensive wood to use that would wear well, match the rustic/historic Fishtown and be safe for decades to

come. Can I receive a call or quote asap? They are ready to push this through as a County Commissioner, I only have one vote to hold off on something better. Thank you.

[Manage Submissions](#)

Does this submission look like spam? [Report it here.](#)

Richard Lewis

From: Kama Ross
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 6:30 PM
To: Richard Lewis
Subject: Fwd: black locust local projects

Possible to somehow share with BOC tomorrow?

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: thomas <thomas@bungalowbuilders.org>
Date: October 14, 2024 at 6:06:44 PM EDT
To: Kama Ross <kross@leelanau.gov>
Subject: black locust local projects

Attached are a few pics of out black locust work:

- Image 3253 ,3313: detail showing hidden deck fasteners, round/eased edges like commercially produced decking & final porch floor; Empire 2019
- P1000357 & 362:, built with SEEDS Eco Corps 2010. Boardman River boardwalk near the former dam.
- P1000401: bench made for SEEDS/Bioneers auction 2010
- P1000827, 829: front entry deck for Empire home 2010; using natural edge boards, scribe-fit.
- P1000862, 864, 869: with SEEDS EcoCorps South Manitou Island boardwalk & benches 2011
- P1010086-95: trellis/arbor & gate assemblies for Empire residence 2012
- I0263: picture from 2013--grandmother black locust cut by Sleeping Bear Park Service near site of farmhouse ruins(Frederickson Rd.). This and a few other giant black locust trees were cut & lay to sink into the earth without utilizing the wood. I suspect they are still there, grown over by brambles perhaps. The trees were stump treated with an herbicide; you can see upon a closer look, new black locust growth has sprouted from the stump. The thinking of park biologists at the time was to girdle or cut & stump treat with the hope of returning the park back to it's former self. This was when SEEDS was actively cutting in partnership with the Park. Not sure what the Park's attitude today but I believe there is still many acres of Black Locust in the Sleeping Bear. (idea: with permission from the Park, pull these large logs & branches for milling, might just be enough & beautiful material at that. Even with a decade laying on the ground, the inner wood is remarkable. The bark & sap layer will have decomposed but once you start milling, it looks brand new. I know this from my first exposure to "rotten" black locust logs sitting idle at a mill).

There is plenty more to explore on the internet about black locust.

I am willing to offer a 1/2 day training session on working black locust at no charge if that can help.

Bravo to you for pushing this along; important work especially when we consider the environmental impacts of the alternatives.

Kind Regards,

Thomas Hirsch

Bungalow Builders of Northern Michigan, Inc.

1571 Higgins Road

Benzonia, MI 49616

231-651-9131

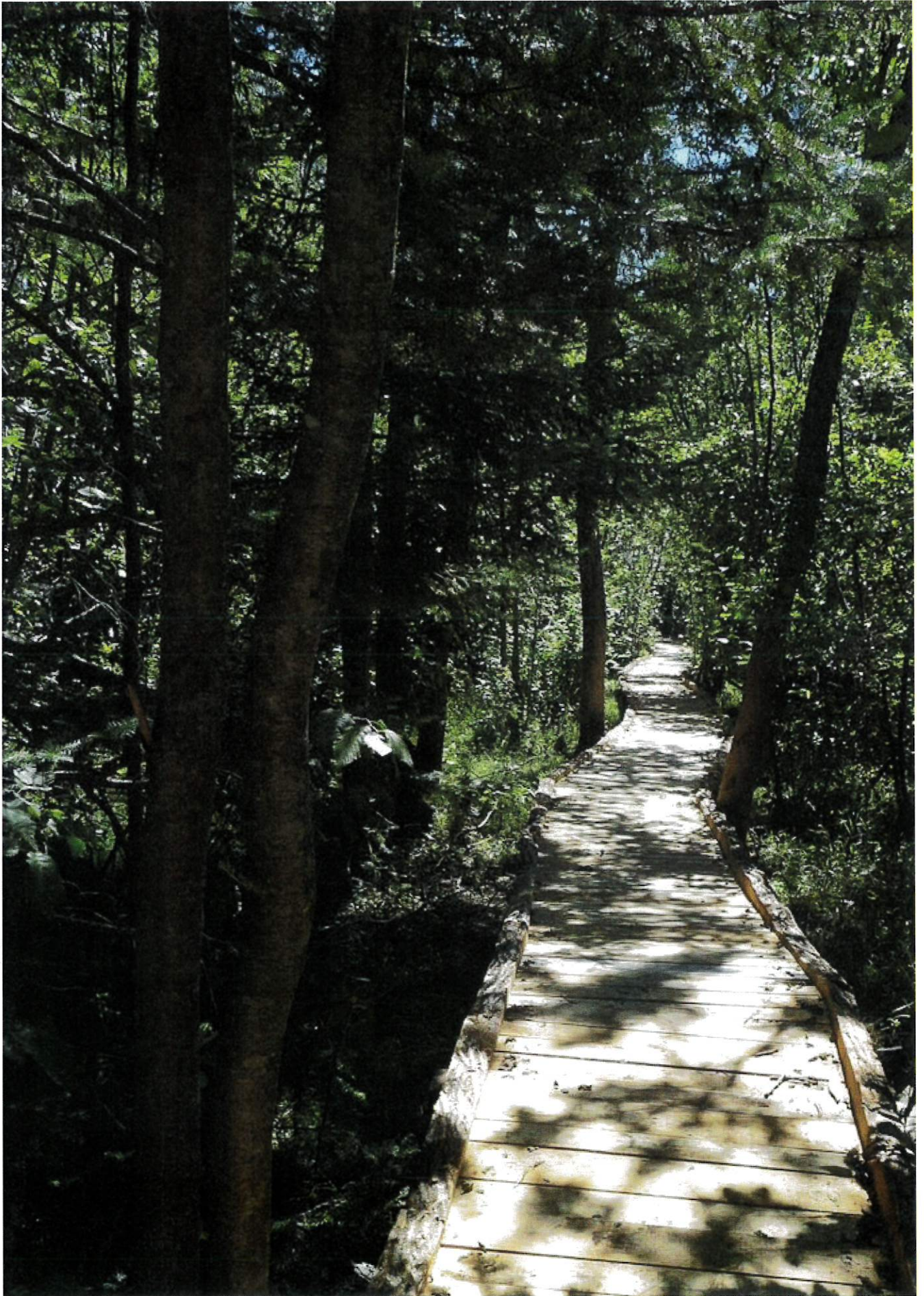
MI Builder License # 2102195488

www.bungalowbuilders.org



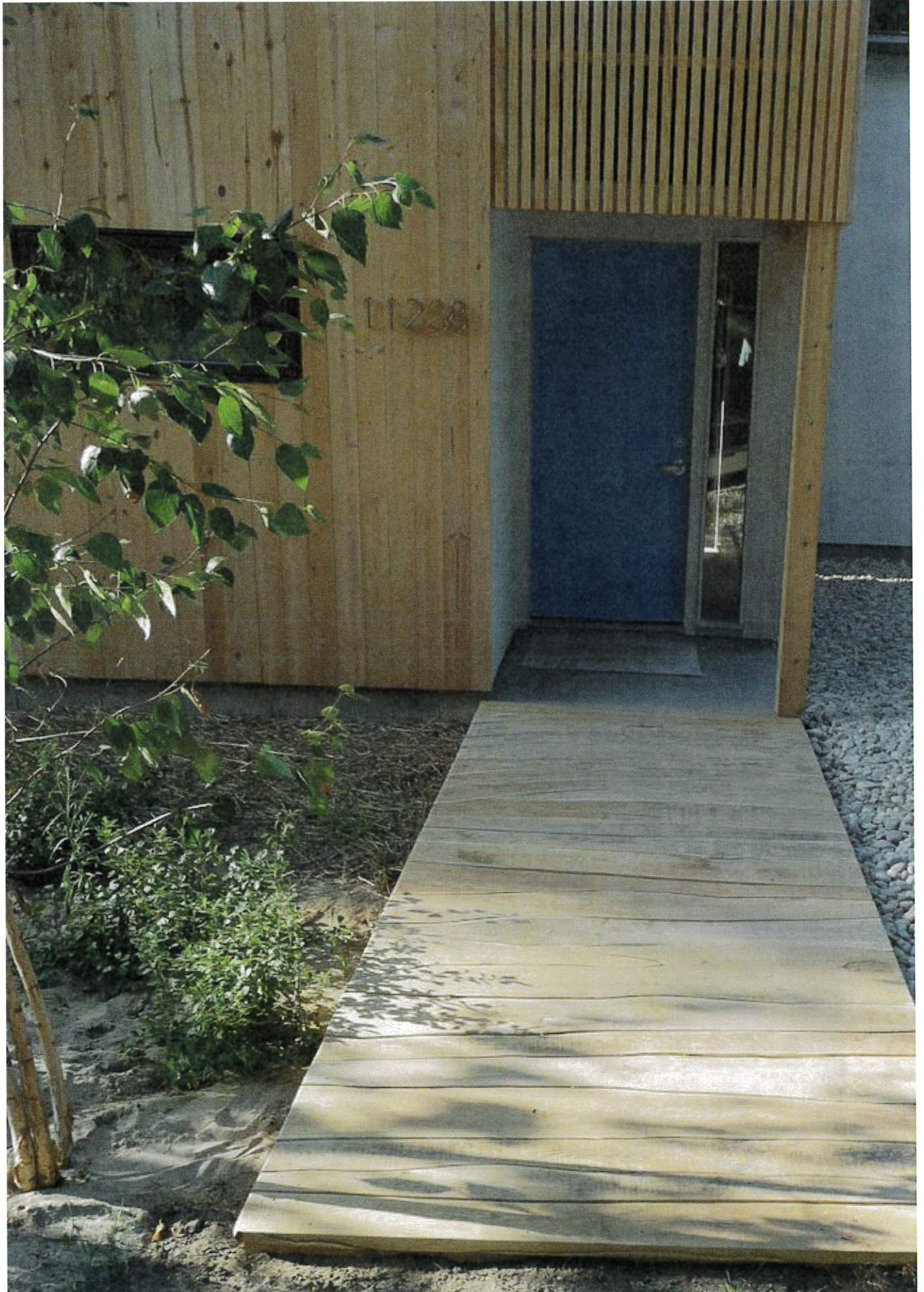




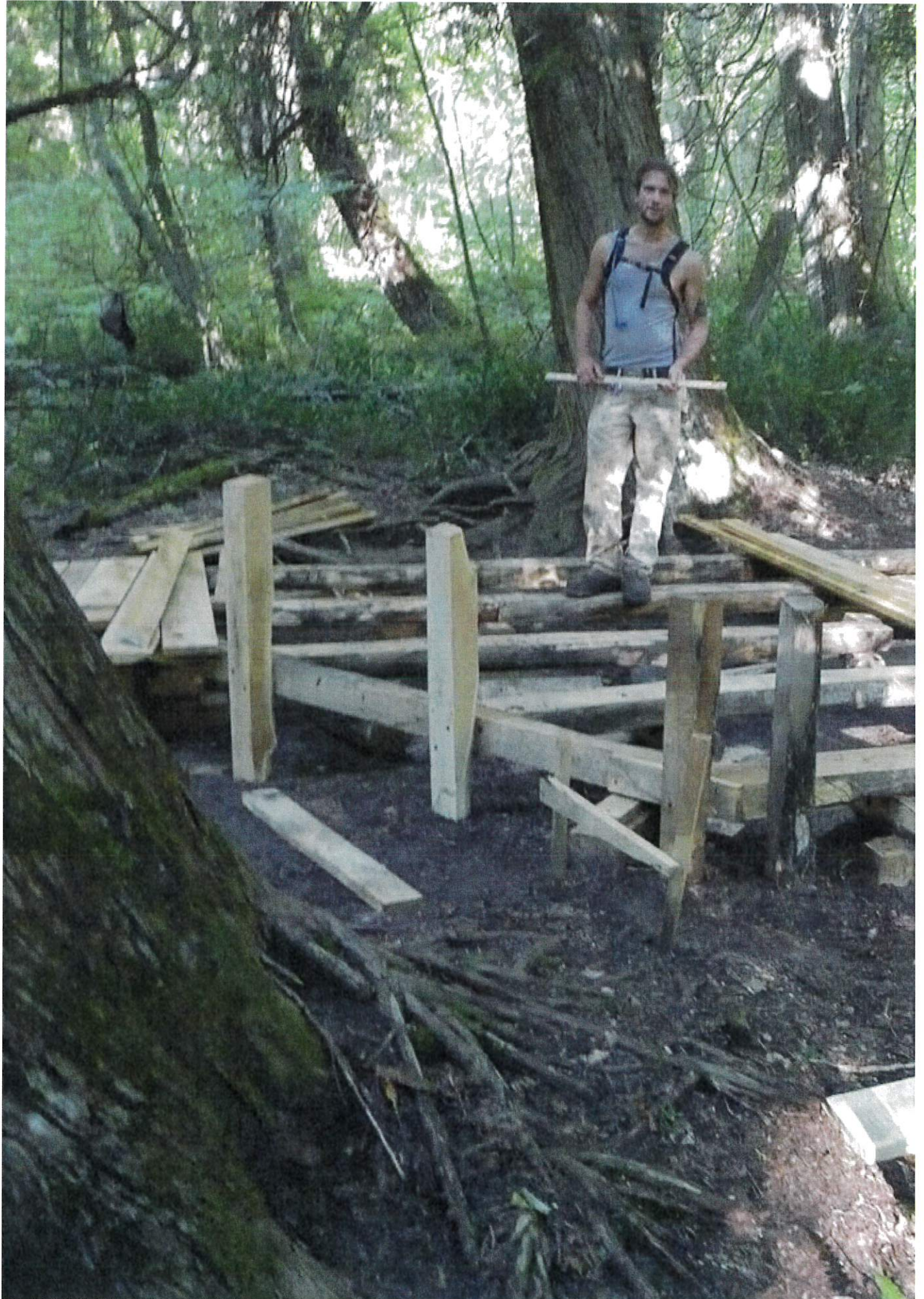




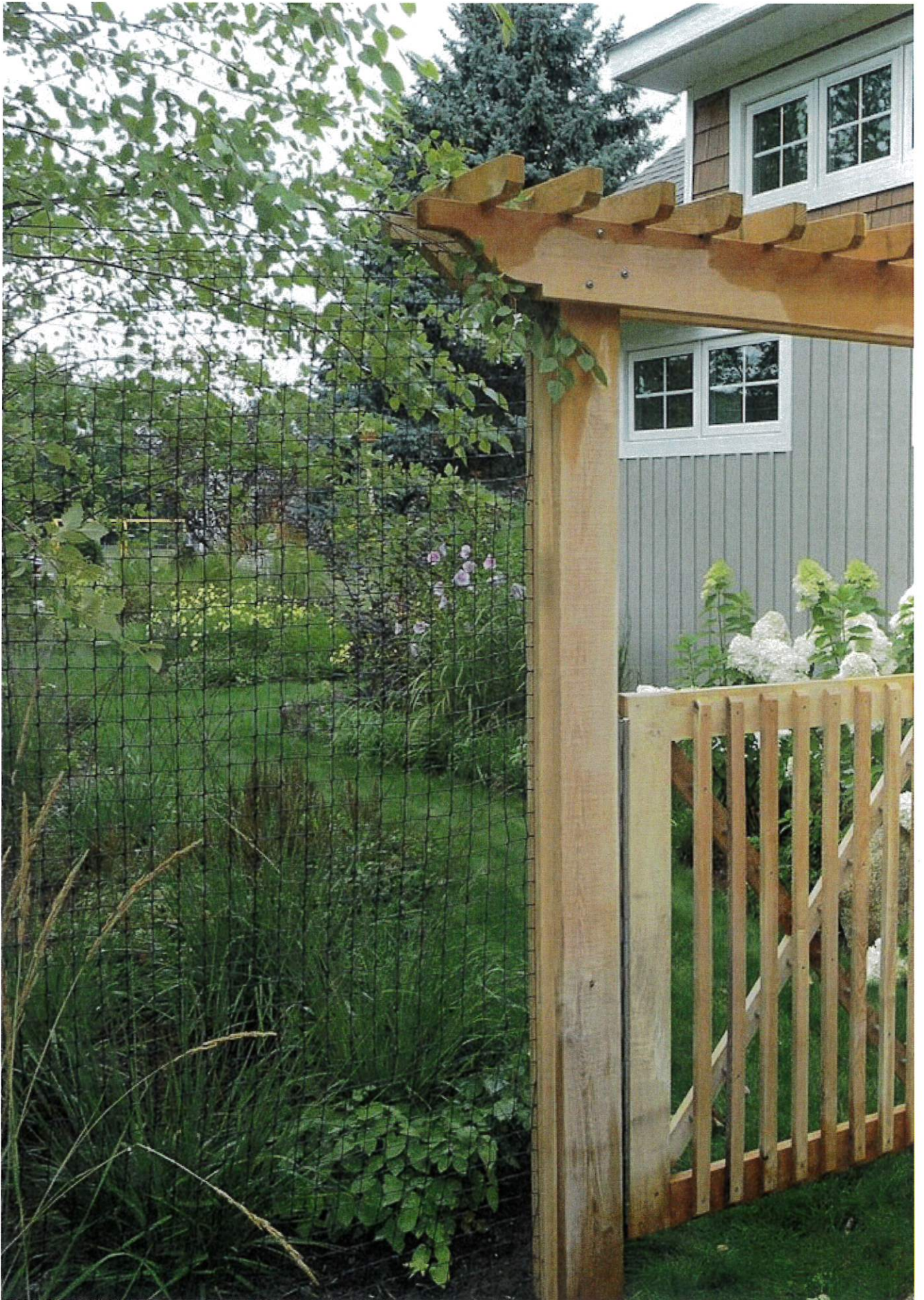




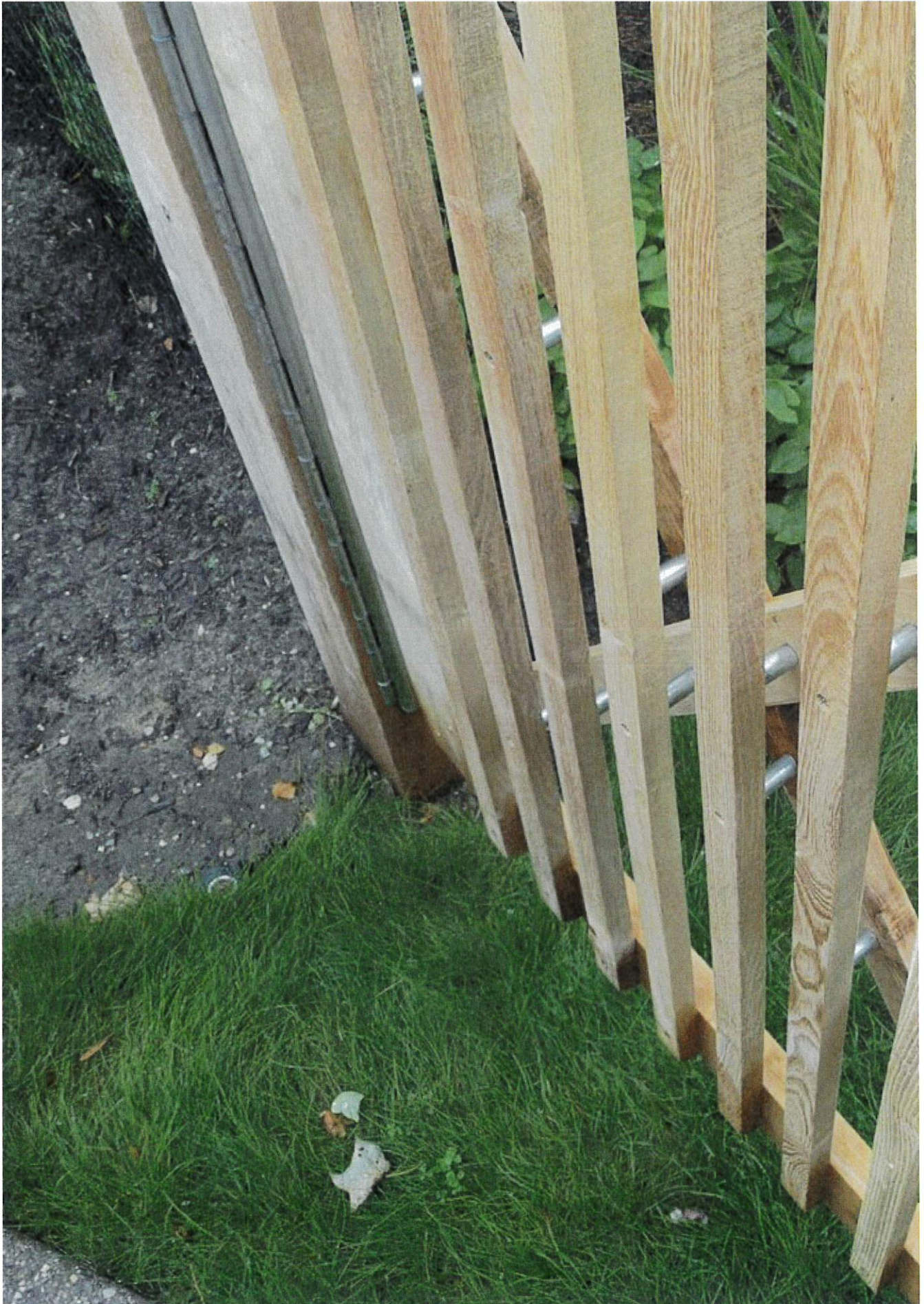


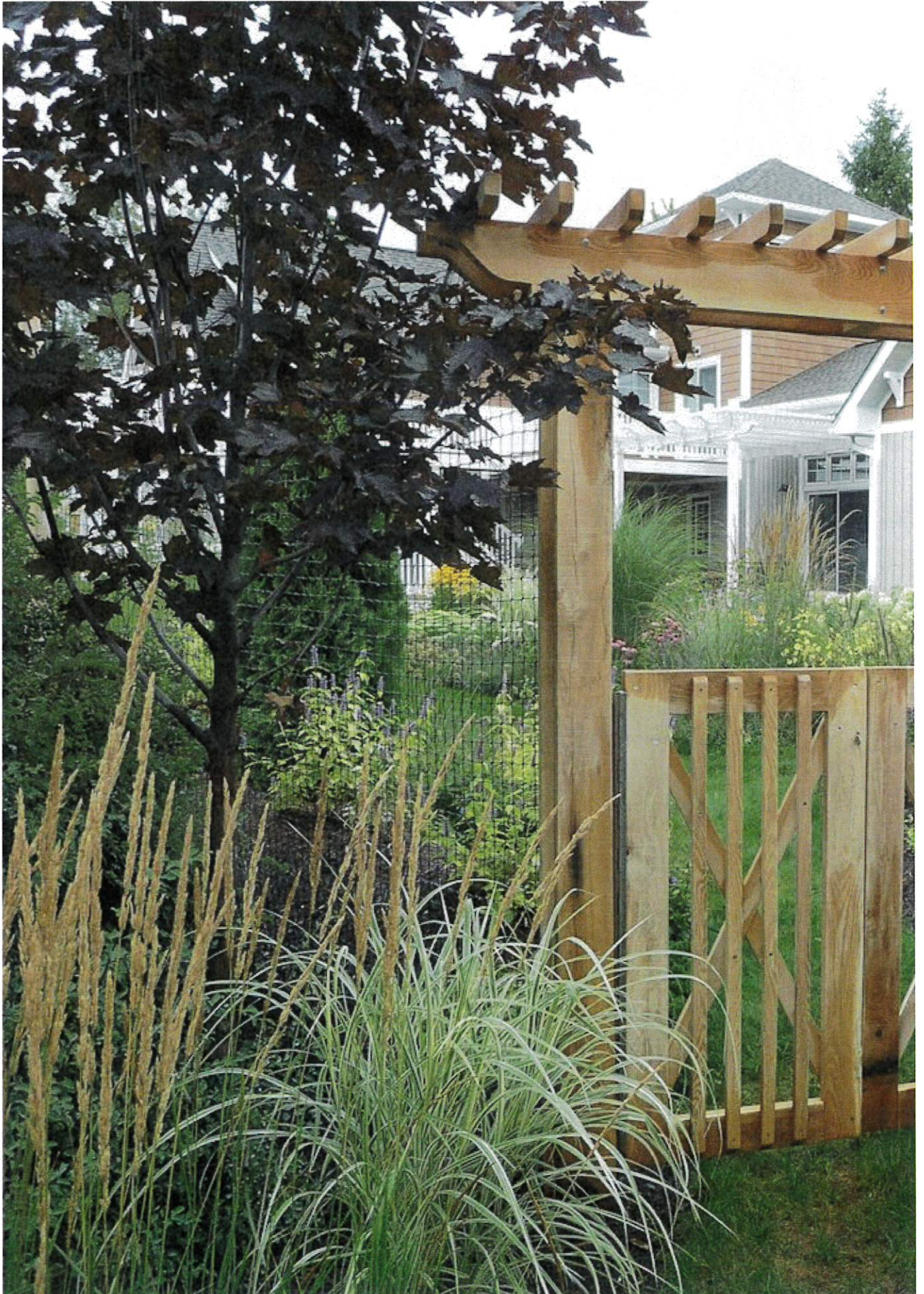














Richard Lewis

From: Ty Wessell
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 8:12 PM
To: Richard Lewis
Subject: Fwd: Leland Bridge Bid

FYI. See below.
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ty Wessell <twessell@leelanau.gov>
Date: October 14, 2024 at 8:10:54 PM EDT
To: Kama Ross <kama.ross@yahoo.com>
Cc: Gwenne Allgaier <gallgaier@leelanau.gov>
Subject: Re: Leland Bridge Bid

Thanks Kama. I'm nervous about changing the specs after we went out for bids. Did we state preference for Black Locust in original RFP? I feel the same way about Doug's preference for local providers. We must be careful about potential bidders saying we change the specs after RFPs are posted. Let's talk before meeting.

Ty
Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 14, 2024, at 7:46 PM, Kama Ross <kama.ross@yahoo.com> wrote:

I had hoped to talk with you at Harrington's about the Leland Dam bridge. I hate to cause more work for everyone but I just feel very strongly that the current bids are not the best way for the county to go forward. I would like to ask the board to consider asking for the bidders to seriously look at Black Locust as the most suitable material. I have spent the weekend talking with a local Green Builder who I respect, lumber companies that supply black locust decking, and others who know the benefits of the most rot resistant wood native to Michigan. I asked Richard and he is OK with me speaking on this tomorrow, and I mentioned my concerns to Gwenne on our "field trip." Maybe Richard has resolved the questions with the two contractors that bid on the project and maybe I'm too late. It would have been close to have the project completed before winter and the bridge is not "dangerous" and I believe waiting until spring might be OK with everyone. I haven't mentioned anything to the other members of the Dam Authority. Every bone in my body knows we could do better.

Sitting in Leland township meeting - a full house and very long agenda.

Richard Lewis

From: Patrick J. Machin, P.E. <pat@machinengineering.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 9:14 AM
To: Richard Lewis; Steve Christensen
Subject: FW: Leland Bridge Bid

Hi Steve or Richard.

See below from commissioner Ross on the use of Black Locust. We did review this with a contractor in their conversation with a supplier and my research on the internet. It was not Black Locust but black walnut. What is the plan for this. We are at budget and any further work on the project will be an additional service.

I suggested Jason call her.

Is Easling selected as the contractor?

Thoughts?

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-----Original Message-----

From: Jason Klingelsmith <jason@easlingconstruction.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 9:03 AM
To: Patrick J. Machin, P.E. <pat@machinengineering.net>
Subject: FW: Leland Bridge Bid

Pat,
I received this email this morning. Please advise.

Sincerely,

Jason Klingelsmith
CEO & Director
Office: 231-256-9891
Cell: 231-463-3893
jason@easlingconstruction.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Kama Ross <kross@leelanau.gov>

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 8:42 PM
To: info <info@easlingconstruction.com>
Subject: Leland Bridge Bid

I have a quick question about the possibility of using Black Locust on the Leland Bridge instead of Ipe and the Thermally Modified Ash. Can anyone familiar with the project give me a quick call in the morning?

Thanks

Kama Ross

231-920-4055

Sent from my iPad

Richard Lewis

From: Kama Ross <kama.ross@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 9:22 AM
To: Lauren Cypher; Richard Lewis
Subject: Copies for BOC please?!

There are plenty of wood products to choose from, depending on your needs. Here’s a handy guide to see how different options stack up against each other based on the most important factors to consider for your outdoor project.

	BLACK LOCUST	SASSAFRAS	IPE AND OTHER TROPICAL HARDWOODS	WESTERN CEDAR, REDWOOD, AND CYPRESS
IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT	LOWEST Quick growth and fast reproduction, 40 years average age to harvest a lumber producing tree.	LOW Quick growth and fast reproduction. A pioneer species.	HIGHEST Unsustainable. Trees take hundreds of years to reach lumber-producing size. No proven re-growth plan with extinction looming.	Moderate Species sustainable with proper forest management.
DURABILITY	HIGHEST Naturally rot resistant.	HIGH Naturally rot resistant.	HIGHEST Naturally rot resistant.	Moderate Can rot without treatment and susceptible to insects.
LIFESPAN	LONGEST 30+ years.	LONG 20+ years.	LONGEST 30+ years.	Medium 10+ years.
MAINTENANCE	LOWEST Can be oiled annually to keep color rich.	LOWEST Can be oiled annually to keep color rich.	Lowest Can be oiled annually to keep color rich.	HIGHEST Annual cleaning, sanding, sealing required.
APPEARANCE	GOOD Tight grained, golden to brown, excellent detail.	GOOD Straight grained, with a lighter brown color, excellent detail.	GOOD Tight grained, brown, excellent detail.	Moderate Open grained, varying colors, detail varies from straight grained to excellent detail.
STRENGTH (MCS: MAX CRUSHING STRENGTH AND JANKA HARDNESS)	HIGH 10,180 MCS 1,700 Janka	MEDIUM 4,800 MCS 630 Janka	HIGHEST 13,000 MCS 3,600 Janka	Low 7,500 MCS 350 to 500 Janka

COST	\$\$\$	\$\$	\$\$\$\$	\$-\$\$
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Nothing beats Black Locust for sustainability and durability. The wood is naturally rot-, decay-, mildew-, and insect-resistant — the perfect choice for outdoor projects in all climates.

In past decades, Ipe was a popular choice for outdoor wood projects. Ipe is a tropical hardwood grown in the rainforests of South America. Like Black Locust, Ipe is a beautiful and durable wood that can last a lifetime. But exploitative deforestation has driven tropical hardwood trees such as Ipe, Big Leaf Mahogany, and Teak toward the brink of extinction. Unlike Black Locust, it takes 300 years for an Ipe tree to reach a harvestable size. This means every tree that is cut takes 3 centuries before its replacement is mature.

Today, even with this ultra slow growth and low density, many people mistakenly think that Ipe is a “green” building product. Black Locust, on the other hand, grows very quickly at a high-density, and is now considered the most sustainable natural wood product available.

Other decking options are potentially hazardous and require significant use of energy, such as chemically-treated pine, heat-treated woods, and synthetically-developed composite decking materials made from plastics. We also offer Sassafras as a lower-cost and environmentally-friendly alternative to Ipe. These two woods are stronger, harder, more attractive, and last years longer than chemically-treated pine.

Take some time to learn about these [sustainable wood products](#), or [Contact Us](#) to discuss your project today.

Richard Lewis

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Richard Lewis

From: Patrick J. Machin, P.E. <pat@machinengineering.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 10:09 AM
To: Richard Lewis
Subject: Use of Black Locust for Leland Bridge exterior material

Hi Richard,

After commissioner Ross reached out to Jason at Easling construction, I spoke to Jason. Her question was for the use of black locust as the exterior decking and railing material. Jason checked with his supplier and they informed him they and others in the industry “have stopped producing it” because of complaints for durability, warping, splitting, checking, and shrinkage. All the things we were attempting to avoid for this project.

Thank you,

Patrick J. Machin, P.E.
Principal

(231) 935-1530 EXT. 700
1235 E Front St., Suite A
Traverse City, MI 49686
To view our company video and for a list of licenses,
please visit:
www.machinengineering.net



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