



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Greenway Committee

September 10, 2018

Jamie Fosburgh, NPS, Manager, Northeast Region Rivers Program
Lucy Wallace, Chair, NRWSR Study Committee
Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee
c/o Nashua River Watershed Association
592 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

Dear Mr. Fosburgh and Ms. Wallace:

The Groton Greenway Committee, during its April 25, 2018 open meeting, voted unanimously to support the inclusion of Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This letter, which the Greenway Committee approved during its August 1, 2018 meeting, further explains the Greenway Committee's position on this support.

The Groton Greenway Committee strongly supports the goals, objectives, and recommended actions in the "Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan", presented to the public by the Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee. The Groton Greenway Committee looks forward to working with the Stewardship Council that may be established to achieve the goals, objectives, and recommendations in this plan.

Naturally functioning corridors of land, known as "greenways", along the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers are a key factor in the biological diversity our river corridors support, the quality of the waters, and the exquisite scenery enjoyed by hikers and paddlers. When protected in their natural states, these greenways also are critical factors in naturally controlling flooding and containing clean groundwater reserves.

The Groton Greenway Committee was established as an official committee of the Town of Groton four decades ago, and has worked in partnership with local land trusts and conservation groups, municipal officials, state agencies, and federal agencies to expand the naturally vegetated greenway corridors of protected lands along the rivers and streams in Groton. The committee has also worked to stimulate and support comparable efforts in other area communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Adam W. Burnett

Chair, Groton Greenway Committee