

83 Groton St.
Pepperell, MA 01463
June 27, 201

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

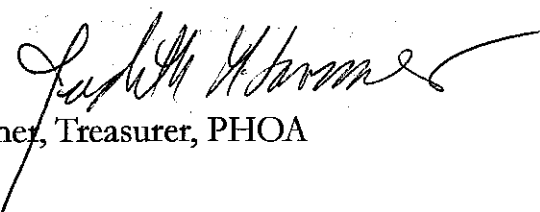
Dear Mr. Fosburgh and Ms. Wallace:

The Pepperell Horse Owners Association (PHOA), founded in 2003, has a mission to preserve and promote equine activities. Our membership is keenly interested in maintaining trails throughout the region that are suitable for horseback riding; the members are also interested in helping to educate people about safety on multi-use trails. The eleven mile Nashua River Rail Trail is a very important recreational asset to our members, as is the network of trails in the protected lands along the rivers, such as the J. Harry Rich State Forest in Groton. I personally ride the Nashua River Rail Trail frequently — it is my access to the Harry Rich State Forest, Shepley Hill, and a broad network of trails in Groton, Pepperell, and Dunstable. I have forwarded your draft letter to the members of our board and invited them to add their own comments. The Pepperell Horse Owners Fall Trail Ride utilizes trails along the Nissitissit River as well. I also run a benefit trail ride that includes the Groton Town Forest and trails bordering the Squannacook River. Protecting these trails is essential to our enjoyment of our horses on the protected areas managed by various agencies within the state, including the Pepperell Conservation Association, the Nashoba Conservation Trust, NRWA, Fish & Wildlife, and the DCR, and various town conservation organizations, among others.

PHOA members gave input to the *Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan* and we look forward to helping implement voluntary actions in the *Stewardship Plan* that relate to our organization's mission as appropriate.

Congressional designation of the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers as Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers will help the communities and local organizations come together to protect and enhance the many outstanding river-related resources identified in the *Stewardship Plan*. We look forward to designation as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


Judy Lorimer, Treasurer, PHOA