



P.O. Box 395
Groton, MA 01450

gctrust.org

June 27, 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 Conservation Trust (GCT) is thrilled to offer its support for the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit River Wild and Scenic designation. The Groton Conservation Trust's mission is to enhance the quality of life in our community through environmental conservation, and engages residents in the enjoyment and stewardship of our remarkable natural landscapes. A central feature of our *remarkable* landscape is our wetlands and waterways: in fact, the Native America name for this specific geographical area is "Petapawag", meaning "swampy places". The waterways that particularly define our town are the Squannacook and Nashua Rivers, each bordered by extensive protected greenways.

The GCT has been in existence for over fifty years. We are cognizant of the fact that Groton is fortunate to have such a concentration of skilled conservationists in its history, and the Trust's success to date simply would not have been possible without their efforts. This building on the backs of earlier conservationists is a point well-researched and strongly made by the Wild and Scenic Study Committee in its definitive Stewardship Plan. We further concur with many of the voluntary recommendations made in the Plan, including but not limited to: a prioritization of land protection efforts on riparian lands; a recognition of the extent of terrestrial and aquatic exotic invasives and the issues concerning such; a need to involve the public in rare species conservation; and, a need to educate the coming generations about the long history of natural resource protection in our town.

This Wild and Scenic designation will mean a tremendous amount to our region. In addition to the honor it brings, it will also bring other assets not least of which is the focus of an entire partnership on those shared resource that connect all our towns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Lapres", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Ted Lapres
President