

Michael Volmar, PhD, P.O. Box 222, Westminster, MA 01473

June 27, 2018

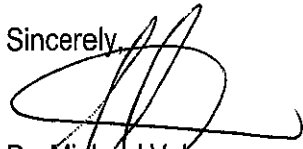
Jamie Fosburgh, NPS, Manager, Northeast Region Rivers Program  
Lucy Wallace, Chair, NRWSR Study Committee  
Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee  
c/o Nashua River Watershed Association  
592 Main Street  
Groton, MA 01450

Dear Mr. Fosburgh and Ms. Wallace:

As the former Chief Curator at Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, MA, where I served for twenty years, and as an anthropologist whose career in archaeology focused on the Native American past in southern New England, I was happy to offer my knowledge when approached by the chair of the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit River Outstanding Resource Value sub-committee, chaired by Lucy Wallace, a Town of Harvard Selectwoman. I told the committee that fresh water estuaries like the Oxbow Wildlife Refuge, a section of the Nashua River (adjacent to Fruitlands Museum), was a significant place for Native People for thousands of years. Native People travelled to places like the Oxbow, sharing access to the bountiful resources among myriad groups, rather than building large permanent settlements within the area.

It is for this reason that there would be little likelihood that archeological remains of a permanent pre-colonial settlement would be discovered there. Archaeological research conducted in and around the Oxbow since the 1930s support this conclusion. Linguistic evidence for shared resource procurement areas are well documented in other areas of New England as well, for example salt water estuaries on Cape Cod. The Oxbow is just as resource-rich today as it was all those years ago and now it is rightly being considered for national Wild and Scenic River designation. I can think of no better place that deserves such an appellation. I fully support this Stewardship Plan and its recommendation to designate these three rivers.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Volmar