



Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

June 20, 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

A Multi-Disciplinary
Regional Planning
Agency Serving:

Dear Mr. Fosburgh and Ms. Wallace:

Billerica
Chelmsford
Dracut
Dunstable
Lowell
Pepperell
Tewksbury
Tyngsborough
Westford

The Towns of Dunstable and Pepperell are part of the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG). These communities are our most rural and least developed, due to the considerable amount of open space that they have permanently protected over the years. The Nashua River Rail Trail, a very popular 11-mile multi-use recreational path, prominently passes through both towns. Each town cherishes its rural landscape, agricultural heritage, and the natural resources that set them apart from other communities. Finding a mechanism to protect those resources most valued by the residents of these communities is one of their greatest challenges. The preservation of natural and historic resources can play a significant role in defining a community's unique sense of place and identity.

Pat Wojtas
Chair

Beverly A. Woods
Executive Director

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Both Dunstable and Pepperell continue to institute policies and practices that protect and enhance water resources, wildlife habitat, farmland, and forests. Therefore, both towns voted affirmatively at their Spring 2018 Annual Town Meetings to accept the "Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan" and its recommendation to seek designation at Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Northern Middlesex Council of Government is extremely pleased by the prospect of the Wild and Scenic designation being approved by Congress. Protection of the waterway will enhance the quality of life for residents throughout our region, as well as for those living and recreating along the River.

Sincerely,

Beverly Woods
Executive Director