

Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council

Process for Selecting Additional Voting Member Entities

Approved 2/20/20

Background:

The *Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan* adopted by the eleven participating towns at their Annual Town Meetings in the spring of 2018 details in the Membership section on page 135 that “The Stewardship Council will consist of not more than 15 voting member entities. Core member entities will include the participating towns of Ayer, Bolton, Brookline, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard, Hollis, Lancaster, Pepperell, Shirley, and Townsend; the Nashua River Watershed Association; and the National Park Service. Each core voting member entity will have one vote. Two additional voting member entities may be elected by the core membership from not-for-profit or government entities that the Council feels will provide specialized knowledge and expertise to support the work of the Council.”

Process for Adding Voting Member Entities:

1. At a scheduled and posted Stewardship Council Meeting, the voting member entities may vote to begin the process of identifying additional voting member entities.
2. Should the Stewardship Council approve appointing one or two additional voting member entities, the Council will ask the Representatives, Alternates, and Guests to suggest entities they think should be considered and to send their suggestions, including the reason for recommending the particular entity, to the Council’s Chair one week in advance of the regularly scheduled Stewardship Council Meeting at which the topic will be taken up. Anyone responding to the query can make as many suggestions as he/she/they want. The request for suggestions will be circulated by email to Representatives and Alternates who are not in attendance. All suggestions and their rationales should be written and submitted on the attached forms. The President will prepare a compilation of suggestions and rationales, without attribution. [Note: Throughout these discussions, it is potential member entities that are being discussed, not individual representatives of the entities.]
3. Stewardship Council participants will be notified of the regularly scheduled Council meeting at which this topic will be discussed and possibly voted on. A confidential list of suggested entities will be distributed to the voting member entities one week prior to the meeting. Proxy voting will not be allowed. [Note: If voting member entity Representatives feel they should take this topic and question to their Boards of Selectmen, NRWA, or NPS respectively, an extra month can be built into the process.]
4. At the appropriate Council meeting, the compilation of suggestions and rationales will be discussed. A vote can be taken at the meeting if the voting member entities in

- attendance are ready to do so and there is a quorum. Votes by the voting member entities will be by paper ballots and counted by the Chair. New voting member entities will be elected one at a time by a vote of 2/3 of those voting member entities present.
5. The *Stewardship Plan* specifies how appointments to fill seats of different types of voting member entities are filled, and each elected voting member entity will be notified of their election to a seat on the Council to confirm their willingness to participate (see Template letter). If they are willing to participate, the entities will be asked to appoint a Representative and Alternate as soon as possible. The appointed Representative and Alternate of the new elected voting member entity will serve for three-year terms, if that length is compatible with the rules of the entity. There are no term limits established by the Stewardship Council for the Representatives and Alternates.
 6. The Stewardship Council will evaluate any new voting member entity every three years after its election and decide if the Council is best served by continuing to have that “new” voting member entity continue as a Council member, or, if another potential voting member entity should be considered instead.
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Advisory Committee

Keep in Mind that the *Stewardship Plan* also details the possibility of forming an Advisory Committee on pages 136-137. While the current By-Laws and Policies Subcommittee does not recommend taking up the topic of an Advisory Committee in the short term, it is potentially helpful to be reminded of its possibility. “The Stewardship Council may also form a non-voting Advisory Committee whose members may participate in committee deliberations without a vote. Members of the Advisory Committee might include representatives from:

- Devens, an Enterprise Zone, represented by the Devens Enterprise Committee [sic Commission]
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts (for example, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Northeast and Central Districts; and Division of Ecological Restoration)
- State of New Hampshire (for example, Fish and Game Department)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (for example, Refuge Manager, Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge)
- US Geological Survey
- Companies that own the three working dams (Hollingsworth and Vose Company; Ice House Partners, Inc. /Grady Research, Inc.; and Eagle Creek Renewable energy, L.L.C.)”

Additional Participants

On Page 137 of the *Stewardship Plan*, the topic of **Additional Participants** is addressed: “Throughout the implementation of the Stewardship Plan, the Stewardship Council will stay in close touch with a wide variety of stakeholder groups and entities, some of whom may choose to attend regular meetings of the Stewardship Council. Such entities include, but are not limited to: Nashoba Paddler, L.L.C.; Squann-a-tissit Chapter of Trout Unlimited; Ducks Unlimited; bass fishing clubs and local sportsmen’s groups; Regional Planning Agencies; Massachusetts Department of Transportation and New Hampshire Department of Transportation; local and regional land trusts; conservation organizations such as Massachusetts Audubon, Massachusetts Rivers Alliance, and Beaver Brook Association; trail groups; Freedom’s Way Heritage Association; historical societies; local sustainability commissions; and others.

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Suggestion Form *re* Additional Voting Member Entities

(Additional Space Can be Used in Responding to This Form)

Suggested Voting Member Entity _____

Does this entity support the goals of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Program and the goals of the *Stewardship Plan*?

What skills and expertise do you think this entity would bring to the Council?

Is there some kind of “gap” you think this entity would fill on the Council?

Do you think this entity is likely to appoint a Representative and Alternate who are familiar with the *Stewardship Plan*, can take the time to participate, are likely to be an active participants?

Why should this entity be a voting member of the Council, rather than an Advisory Committee member?

What other thoughts do you have about why the Council should consider adding this entity?

Your Name (optional) _____