



August 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

Dear Mr. Fosburgh and Ms. Wallace:

The Rotary Club of Ayer, Harvard, Shirley, and Devens offers its support for the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers (NSN) Wild and Scenic River designation. All four of our Club's focus communities have considerable frontage on the main stem Nashua River.

I'd venture to say that every one of our Rotarians is familiar with the river and its assets. Those of us who have been in the area for several decades have seen this waterway transformed from a river showing gross neglect, through an ecological restoration of historic significance, to this day when we are writing in support of federal recognition as a Wild and Scenic River. Much of this restoration was fueled by local citizens: a compelling story of empowerment we have to share with the next generation, as well as with those who are new to calling this region their home. A clean river is a sign of attention, of respect, and of a responsibility that has been fulfilled.

Our Club recognizes that designation of the rivers as "Wild and Scenic" and the implementation of the Stewardship Plan supports economic development. We can see that the locally-driven Stewardship Plan recommends many actions that we can help volunteer to bring to fruition and we look forward to being involved.

Good luck with the next steps in the Partnership Wild and Scenic River process. Let us know how we can next help out.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia A. Thorpe".

Patricia Thorpe
President