



July 25, 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 Townsend Historical Society offers its support for the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Wild and Scenic River designation. We were asked to share any input we might have from the onset as when an informational listening forum was held specifically for historic and cultural values stakeholders earlier this year.

Our Society has been in existence since 1896. The Reed Homestead, our headquarters, is located on the Squannacook River in Townsend Harbor, which is an area steeped in history. Townsend Harbor is a designated historic district under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The original Harbor Pond dam dates back to 1733, along with the Spaulding Cooperage and the Grist Mill erected in the very early nineteenth century. We currently hold the deed to the Harbor Church, also on the Squannacook River. The Townsend Historical Society maintains stewardship of these properties. Through all these properties runs the railroad built in 1854. Students and educators of all ages and interests visit The Society's complex to investigate its history and/or to enjoy the ambience found there.

The Stewardship will do much to maintain and enhance the multitude of historical resources we have at hand for many years to come. We hope to stay informed in this locally-controlled Partnership of Wild and Scenic River should it be legislatively approved by Congress.

Sincerely,

Clare Kauppi,
President