

December 26, 2023

Community Preservation Committee
Town of Groton
173 Main Street
Groton, MA. 01450

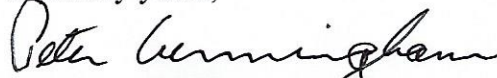
RE: CPA Application 2025-01: Conservation Fund

Dear CPC Members,

On behalf of Squannacook Greenways I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the Groton Conservation Commission's application for \$400,000 for the conservation fund. This fund has been a vital resource for protecting land and creating much of the open space and recreational property that we all enjoy and makes Groton such a special place to live. As you are aware having the flexibility of conservation fund resources allows the ConComm to respond in a judicious way when valuable parcels of land become available. Without that flexibility the ConComm is unable to move in a timely manner on land that may become available and instead must go through the arduous Town Meeting appropriation process. Given the fluid dynamics of the real estate market, most landowners are unwilling to wait for a Town Meeting vote.

Squannacook Greenways shares many of the same values held by the ConComm in their goal to protect open space for the enjoyment of all. The Squannacook River Rail Trail (SRRT) abuts many sections of open space and protected land and is the connection for many townspeople to enjoy that land. We urge you to support this application and report favorably on it to the 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Cunningham", written in a cursive style.

Peter Cunningham, President
Squannacook Greenways