



NEW ENGLAND
FORESTRY
FOUNDATION

January 10, 2024

Attn: Katie Berry, Inter-Departmental Administrative Assistant
Community Preservation Committee
Groton Town Hall
Groton, MA 01450

Dear CPC,

I am writing from New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) in support of the Groton Trails Committee's "Tools and Equipment for Building and Enhancing Trails" FY2025 funding request. NEFF owns approximately 884 acres across four community forests in Groton with over 10 miles of trails. NEFF properties are open to the public for a range of passive recreational activities, including hiking, dog walking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and horseback riding. NEFF relies on the stewardship work of the Groton Trails Committee to keep trails open and in good condition for public access and recreation.

Well-constructed, sustainable trails minimize erosion, require less maintenance over time, protect and enhance the conservation values of the NEFF forestland, and provide opportunities for positive experiences in nature. A maxim of trail work is "use the right tool for the job." An improved tool/equipment supply managed by the Trails Committee will allow them to do necessary work efficiently and well for a community benefit. For these reasons NEFF supports the allocation of requested funds to the Groton Trails Committee.

Sincerely,

Beth Gula
Stewardship Manager

CC: Paul Funch, Groton Trails Committee