

Final

# CPA Project Application Form

[CPC Use Only: Date Received 2/15/24 By: Ratie Berry  
Assigned CPC #2025- 07]

If possible, use word processor to fill out form. Please answer all questions, use "N/A" if not applicable.

- a.) Applicant Name and Organization: Last Cunningham First Peter  
Organization(s) (if appropriate) Squannacook Greenways
- b.) Regional Project: Yes ? or No? X If Yes, Town/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

- Submission Date: 1/2/24
- Applicant Address: St. 44 Smith Street  
City/ State: Groton, MA ZIP: 01450
- Ph. # (508) 864-5118 Email: brecca@charter.net
- CPA Purpose. Check all that apply:  
Community Housing  (Affordable Housing)  Historic Preservation\*  Open Space   
Recreation
- \* As per MA General Law Chapter 44B, proposed historic projects that are not on the structures listed on the state's registry of historic places require a determination by the Groton Historic Commission that the proposed project is of historic significance.
- Town Committee or boards participating: \_\_\_\_\_
- Project Location/Address: Peterborough & Shirley RR (MBTA) right of way in West Groton
- Project Name: Squannacook River Rail Trail
- Additional Responsible Parties (If applicable):

Role (specify)	Name	Address	Ph. (w) (cell)	Email
Property/Site Owner	MBTA	100 Cambridge Street Boston, MA.	(617) 222-6235	
Project Manager	Peter Cunningham	44 Smith Street Groton, MA	(508) 864-5118	brecca@charter.net
Lead Architect				
Project Contractor				
Project Consultants	Stan Dillis, PE	1 Main Street Lunenburg, MA.	(978) 779-6091	
Other:				
Other				

- As appropriate, indicate if proposal requires P&S agreement  Deed   
Option agreement  Other-describe: \_\_\_\_\_
- a.) Assessor info. (map/ block/ lot id.(s)): 102-3 b.) Tax classification type: RA
- Permits required: Zoning: \_\_\_\_\_ Historic Preservation: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Historic Commission Approval signoff (when required): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- a.) Project cost \$ 30,000 : Estimate  Professional quote  b.) Requested from CPC: \$30,000  
c.) Committed from other source: \$ 0 If applicable: annual anticipated total income: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annual anticipated total expense: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Anticipated net income (loss): \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Estimator name/company: \_\_\_\_\_

15. CCP Objectives - use codes from **Section 5 of Community Preservation Plan** to indicate all that apply: Code 5.3 and OSRP 9.5.1

16. Project Timelines: Proposed Start Date: 7/1/24 Projected Complete Date: 3/1/25

17. Estimated Delivery Date of Completion Report to CPC: 3/1/25

18. Project description and explanation (attach additional sheets as needed): Squannacook Greenways, Inc. is applying for funding to pay for the design and permitting of the next phase of the SRRT. Phase I currently extends from Depot St. in Townsend to the Bertozzi WMA in West Groton for a distance of 3.7 miles. The proposed Phase II of the SRRT will be to continue the trail from the Bertozzi WMA to Cutler Field in West Groton for a distance of 2.1 miles along the scenic Squannacook River. This ecological sensitive area will require filings with the Groton Conservation Commission and the state's National Heritage & Endangered Species Program. It will also require wetlands deliniations in areas where the trail nears the river bank and other wetland areas. The land is owned by the MBTA and Squannacook Greenways holds a 99 year lease on the property for the purpose of building a multi-use recreational trail. It has been through the hard work of a dedicated group of volunteers, DCR Mass Trails grants, various foundation grants, CPA funds, legislative earmarks and private fundraising that has enabled Squannacook Greenways to complete Phase I of the SRRT. Permitting and design is essential in order to begin Phase II of the SRRT which when eventually completed will advance the goal of

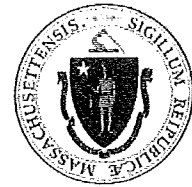
19. Feasibility: extending the trail into Ayer and establishing a connection with the Nashua River Rail Trail. Feasibility of the SRRT was documented in CPA Project # 2007-11 and successful completion of Phase I.

20. List of attachments: FY 2023 MassTrails Grant award, map of SRRT eventual connection with the NRRT in Ayer creating the Nashoba Rail Trail Network, GIS map of project locus

21. Additional Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

22. Management Plan: Management of this project is by Squannacook Greenways.(SG). SG has the experience from the work which has been done to date on the SRRT and successful management of previous CPA grants. SG will communicate with the CPC to ensure timelines are adhered to, verify work is completed per contract specifications, and make sure invoices are verified and signed before submission to the CPC for final approval and payment. Peter Cunningham, President of Squannacook is the primary contact and responsible party.

23. Applicant Signature: Peter S. Cunningham Date: 2/6/24  
Co Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Co Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION  
MASSTRAILS GRANT AWARD

Grant Award Recipient: Squannacook Greenways

Award Date:

Grant Contract ID: P24-3549-G17A

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MASSTRAILS GRANT AGREEMENT

This document represents a Grant Agreement between **Squannacook Greenways** and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for the **Squannacook River Rail Trail** project as awarded under the MassTrails Grant Program. The project scope *may* have been modified after receiving the results of our mandatory regulatory review by agency partners. Please carefully review the project description below and the specific conditions – *if any* – that must be adhered to. Failure to meet and comply with the specific conditions may result in termination of the award.

Project Description:

*Squannacook Greenways seeks funding toward construction of the fourth and final phase of the presently permitted 3.7-mile portion of the Squannacook River Rail Trail. This phase will connect the two previously completed sections of this multi-use stone dust trail along the MBTA right of way in Townsend and Groton. Given the success that the built trail has been to-date, our organization has also expanded its plans for the Squannacook River Rail Trail to include a southward connection to the Nashua River Rail Trail.*

Summary of Specific Conditions:

**No specific conditions**, however a full list of general conditions is provided and outlined in Section 14, “Compliance with State and Federal Regulations.” *Please carefully read the entire section.* Contact the MassTrails Administrator if you need further clarification on what is required.

Upon signature of this Grant Agreement by the Project Manager or authorized signatory and in conjunction with execution of the fiscal MA Standard Contract by the State, **Squannacook Greenways** may proceed to incur direct and matching expenses in relation to the project scope.

**1. GENERAL PURPOSE**

The **Squannacook Greenways** agrees to perform the services related to **Squannacook River Rail Trail** project as outlined in its original application, any approved revisions, or the above

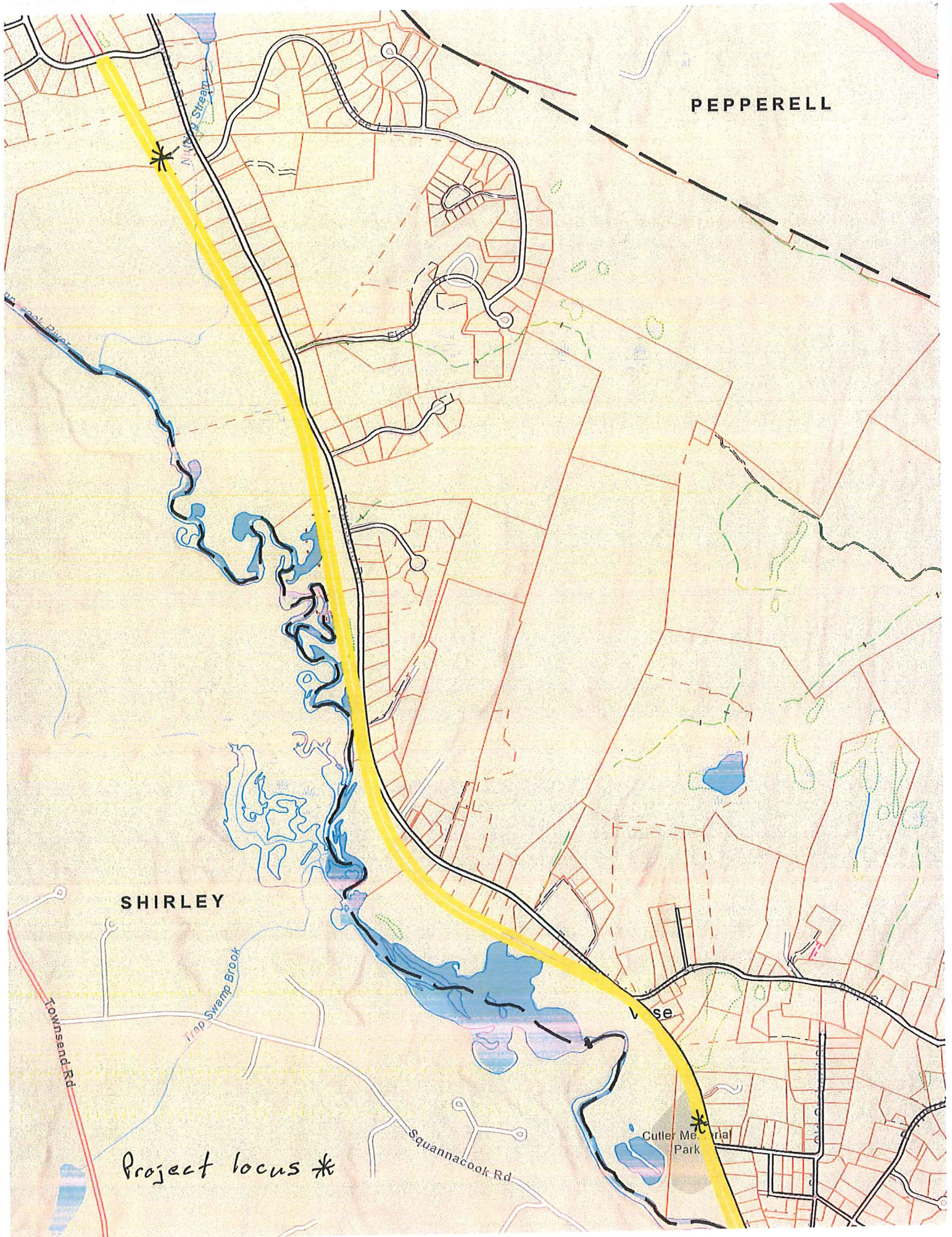
listed general conditions, in accordance with all regulations, policies, and procedures set forth by the State under the MassTrails Program.

## **2. GRANT TOTAL**

The maximum amount of funds available to the Grantee pursuant to this agreement shall be **\$150,000.00**. It is further understood and agreed that the Grantee shall only be reimbursed on the basis of actual costs incurred, and that the State's determination of eligible and approved costs shall be final in all cases. It is understood and agreed that all payments of all sums by the State hereunder are contingent upon availability and continued appropriation, and if for any reason whatsoever, such funds shall be terminated or reduced or otherwise become unavailable, the State may terminate this grant in whole or part immediately. Any funds awarded but not spent by the Grantee by the project termination date shall lapse.

## **3. COST SHARING PROVISIONS**

The Grantee will be required to provide acceptable documentation in a format that fully accounts for and certifies that the matching funds or in-kind services have been, in fact, incurred on the project. The Grantee must document a minimum of 20% of the *total project cost*, or the amount listed in the grant application. The proposed match for this project, as stated in the grant application, is **\$170,000.00**.



PEPPERRELL

SHIRLEY

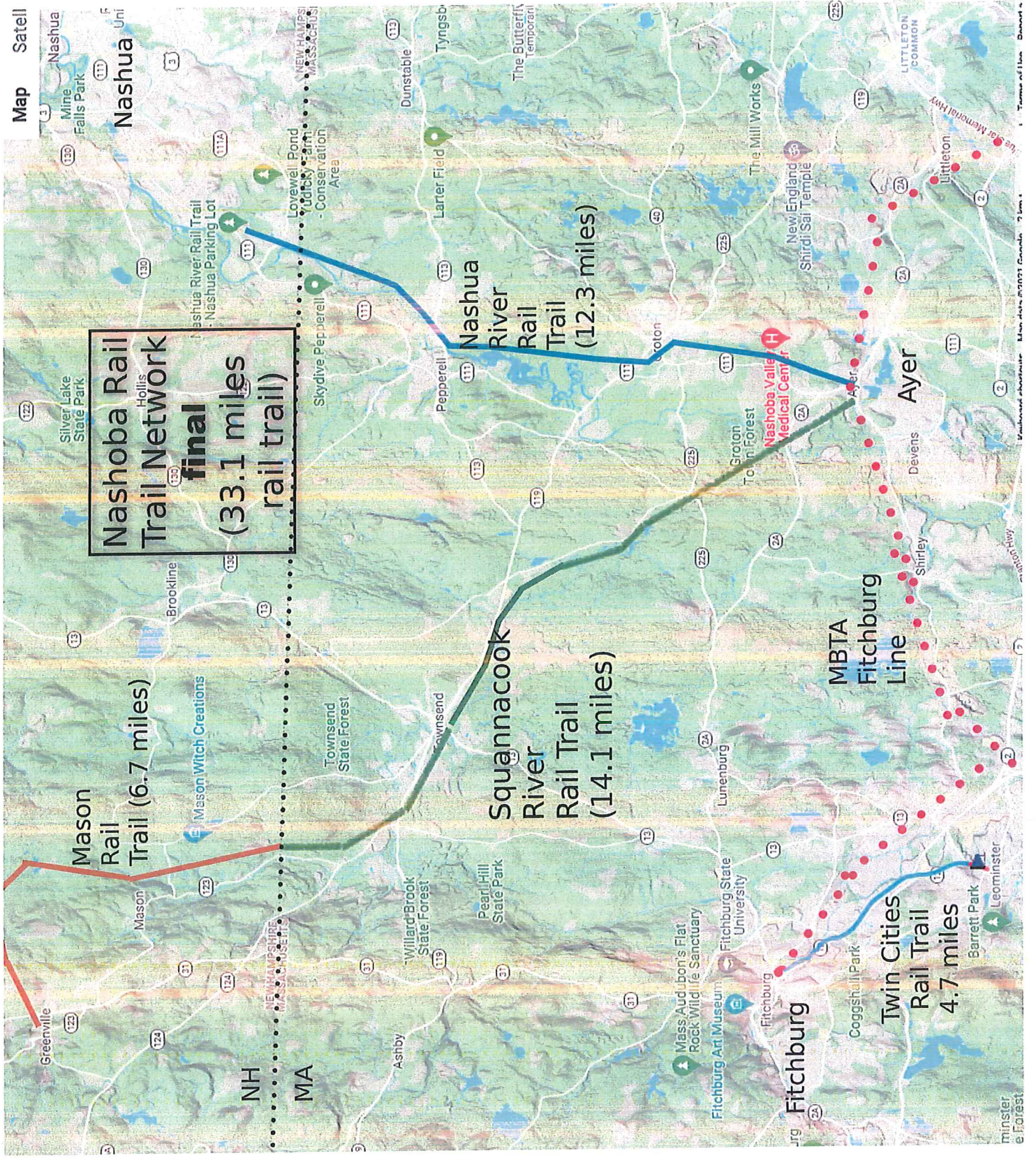
Townsend Rd

Tripp Swamp Brook

Squannacook Rd

Culler Memorial Park

Project locus \*



**Nashoba Rail Trail Network**  
**final**  
**(33.1 miles rail trail)**

**Mason Rail Trail**  
**(6.7 miles)**

**Squannacook River Rail Trail**  
**(14.1 miles)**

**Nashua River Rail Trail**  
**(12.3 miles)**

**Twin Cities Rail Trail**  
**4.7 miles**

**MBTA Fitchburg Line**



**TOWN OF GROTON**

Stewardship Committee

173 Main Street

Groton, MA 01450

(978) 448-1106

Fax: 978-448-1113

[csteeves@grotonma.gov](mailto:csteeves@grotonma.gov)

Community Preservation Committee  
Groton Town Hall  
Groton, MA 01450

Dear Members of the CPC-

I am writing this letter to express support on behalf of the Conservation Commission for the Squannacook Greenway's project to extend the Squannacook River Rail Trail.

The Squannacook River Rail Trail, currently 1.8 miles long, serves as a scenic recreational trail for biking, walking, jogging, and horseback riding. When complete, the Squannacook River Rail Trail will be 3.7 miles long. Squannacook Greenways is currently seeking \$30,000 in CPC funds to pay for the next section of the Rail Trail.

Once complete, the Squannacook River Rail Trail will provide an excellent opportunity for members of the community to enjoy a scenic recreational area surrounded by nature. The proposed route provides access to several beautiful hiking trails within the Squannacook River Wildlife Management Area. The trail will help residents of Groton and surrounding communities connect with nature.

The Groton Conservation Commission strongly supports funding for the next phase of the Squannacook River Rail Trail and we fully believe this will be a worthwhile investment of CPA funds.

Thank you,

Eileen McHugh

Chair

Conservation Commission



## TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street  
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237  
Tel: (978) 448-1111  
Fax: (978) 448-1115

## Select Board

Peter S. Cunningham, *Chair*  
John F. Reilly, *Vice Chair*  
Alison S. Manugian, *Clerk*  
Rebecca H. Pine, *Member*  
Matthew F. Pisani, *Member*

**Town Manager**  
Mark W. Haddad

January 10, 2024

Groton Community Preservation Committee  
Groton Town Hall  
173 Main Street  
Groton, MA 01450

RE: Squannacook River Rail Trail Project  
Squannacook Greenways

Dear Members of the Community Preservation Committee,

On behalf of the Groton Select Board, I am writing to you to express the support of the Board for the Squannacook Greenways application to permit the next section of the Squannacook River Rail Trail (SRRT). This 2.1-mile extension, which will stretch from the Bertozzi Wildlife Management Area to Cutler Field, promises to be a valuable addition to Groton.

The proposed trail extension along the scenic Squannacook River holds immense potential for both recreational and ecological benefits. The Squannacook River Rail Trail extension will undoubtedly enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. The Board commends Squannacook Greenways for their dedication to continuing this project. They have demonstrated their commitment to maintaining the delicate balance between recreation and conservation.

The Squannacook River Rail Trail extension will not only provide an opportunity for individuals to connect with nature but also contribute to the overall recreation opportunities in Groton. Squannacook Greenways has proven time and again their commitment to enhancing the quality of life for residents. Their tireless efforts have already resulted in the successful completion of previous trail sections, which have been met with overwhelming support and enthusiasm.

Squannacook Greenways has made great progress in the development of the SRRT and this application will continue this development. The Board strongly encourages you to look favorably on this CPA application so this recreational asset can continue to grow.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Haddad  
Town Manager

MWH/rjb

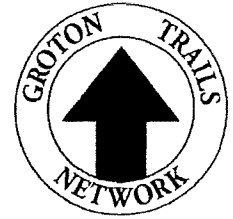
Cc: Select Board  
Squannacook Greenways





# TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street  
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237  
(978) 448-1111  
FAX: (978) 448-1115



Groton Trails Committee

11 January 2024

Community Preservation Committee  
Town Hall  
173 Main Street  
Groton, MA 01450

RE: Squannacook Greenways' "Squannacook River Rail Trail - Phase II" Application

Dear Community Preservation Committee Members:

The Groton Trails Committee enthusiastically supports the Squannacook Greenway's application for \$30,000 from Groton's Community Preservation Act funds to help meet the costs of the Phase II design and permitting. The full cost of this complex project will be covered by MassTrail Grants, additional CPA funding requests, other regional foundation grants, legislative earmarks, and private donations, just as for the Phase I project that will soon be completed from the Bertozzi WMA in West Groton to Depot St. in Townsend. But first its design must pass muster with the Groton Conservation Commission and the state's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). As the trail passes through wetlands, Estimated and Priority Biohabitats, flood zones, and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), the design will come under extensive scrutiny and hence require considerable expense.

We strongly support this project because it will serve the following needs: a) It will connect the existing Squannacook River Rail Trail with West Groton, thus providing a safe, off-Townsend Rd. route for horses, bikers, hikers, etc.; b) It will provide significant additional handicap accessible trail mileage in Groton, which is sorely needed; and c) It contributes to eventually achieving a goal of the Groton Trail Vision, which is to connect the Squannacook River Rail Trail to Ayer, thus providing additional recreational opportunities (e.g., easy access to the Groton Town Forest, Surrenden Farm, The General Field) as well as an alternative transportation corridor for commuters.

This Phase II project will, if permits are obtained, extend the Groton Trails Network (GTN), connect many more homes and subdivisions with the GTN, provide a significantly long and scenic accessible trail, and continue the momentum for connecting the Squannacook River Rail Trail with Ayer and the Nashua River Rail Trail. It is well worth the expenditure of these design funds to determine the feasibility of the Phase II project.

Sincerely yours,

Paul G. Funch, Chair