The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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SHEILA C. HARRINGTON
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Amanda Lewis
Program Manager
DCR MassTrails Program
136 Damon Road
Northampton, MA 01060

Dear Ms. Lewis,

I write to express my enthusiastic support for the Squannacook Greenways MassTrails Grant application. The funding from the grant will provide the second phase of construction which will add 0.7miles to the current 1.1mile trail that was constructed in phase one.

Squannacook Greenways vision is for the Squannacook River Rail Trail is to be 3.7 miles of multi-use trail that includes perfect conditions for walkers, runners, hikers, bicyclists, cross country skiers and mountain bikers but certainly not limited to snowshoeing, fishing, nature walks, strollers and more.

Once the rail trail is completed, it will bring families from neighboring areas such as Groton, Fitchburg, Leominster, Shirley and Ayer to enjoy in this valuable community. Not only will this rail trail appeal to families, but it will also will be an effortless surface, making it enjoyable and more optimal for our senior citizens and our constituents with disabilities.

In 2015, Squannacook Greenways obtained a lease for 99 years from the MBTA that permits construction of recreational rail trail along with an easement from the town of Townsend's Historical Society to route portion of the trail through their property. Furthermore, the Squannacook Greenways has already taken the liberty of clearing all the trees in addition to clearing the rail tracks.

Squannacook River Rail Trail will be an excellent addition to the community in Townsend. I thank you for your consideration in the MassTrails application and again express my full support of this project. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office.

Sincerely,

Sheila C. Harrington

Sheila C. Harrington
State Representative