



Townsend Business Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 542
Townsend, MA 01469

Bill Rideout, Treasurer
Squannacook Greenways
88 South Harbor Road
Townsend, MA 01469

January 23, 2020

Mr. Rideout

On behalf of the Townsend Business Association (TBA) , I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the efforts of the Squannacook Greenways and its MasTrails Grant application.

The Squannacook Greenways project in Townsend Massachusetts is one of tremendous value to our community on several fronts. The rural roads in our community are not conducive to riding and a trail will create a safe space for cycling. The value of connecting our residents from our Center village to our Harbor Village helps create a more interwoven community - especially younger members of our community that rely on bicycles as a mode of transportation. The ability for all - young and old to experience nature will be enhanced when the trail is finished by providing a means to - safely - enjoy the calming forest land and tranquil waterways that envelop the trail. The ability to bike on an interconnected trail system can increase the health of many by getting them out riding. The benefits to the business community will be seen by increasing mobility and access to stores and services. These are just a few of the benefits of the trail to the Townsend Community.

The TBA has watched the committed members of Squannacook Greenways work tirelessly and methodically to bring this asset to the community. Many businesses have contributed (over \$20,000) to the effort which is a testament to the support of the mission to complete the trail. The efforts of Squannacook Greenways have been well planned and inclusive. As the project has been in its planning phase the walks and cleanups that have been organized along the trail have attracted many community members. The current phased clearing further shows the tremendous asset the trail will be to our community. Personally, I have never seen the section of 119/Main Street look so wonderful and inviting as it has been transformed over the past few months.

Our community, when this trail connects us to Groton and beyond will now become a destination for the many users of interconnected trail systems and allow Townsend to have a healthy - environmentally sound mode of transportation to visit neighboring communities or commute to work.

I wish you success with this endeavor. Please let the TBA know how we can continue to support you as you strive to complete the work and open the trail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kym Craven'.

Kym Craven, President
Townsend Business Association