



Naugatuck River Greenway Steering Committee

Torrington • Harwinton • Litchfield • Thomaston • Watertown • Waterbury • Naugatuck • Beacon Falls • Seymour • Ansonia • Derby

April 4, 2016

Government Administration and Elections Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 2200
Hartford, CT 06106

Subject: Support for the Property Conveyance Request by the Town of Beacon Falls

Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila and Distinguished Members of the GAE Committee:

This letter is being submitted in strong support of the request by the Town of Beacon Falls for the conveyance of two state owned parcels to the town to be used as open space and included in the town's new Riverbend Park. The properties in question are a critical link in the full realization of the Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG), a long distance north-south multiuse trail that will serve as the backbone to a growing non-motorized transportation network in western Connecticut.

The NRG Steering Committee (NRGSC), consisting of representatives from all 11 municipalities along the NRG route along with regional, state and federal representatives, serves to promote, support and help guide the development of the NRG and its connections to other transportation facilities and amenities. When complete, the NRG will stretch 44 miles along the Naugatuck River from Torrington south to Derby. We recognize the NRG as not only a recreational facility, but as a means for alternative transportation, a way for residents and visitors to connect to the revitalized Naugatuck River, and ultimately, as a driver of local economies. Plans call for the extension of Beacon Falls' completed greenway section along Main Street south to Riverbend Park, then onward to Toby's Pond Park and into Seymour. The two state owned parcels that are being requested by the town are located between the future NRG route and the town owned parcels that are being improved as a town park. Town control of the two parcels requested for conveyance will allow for a direct connection from the NRG trail to the town park and will allow for a larger more accessible recreation facility with river access. It will make Riverbend Park a true destination along the NRG and will provide an important pedestrian connection from the center of Beacon Falls to Riverbend Park. For these reasons, we hope that you will consider the conveyance request by the Town of Beacon Falls favorably.

If you have any questions about the NRGSC or our support of Beacon Falls' conveyance request, please do not hesitate to contact NRGSC Co-Chairs Ingrid Manning at ingridmanning2@gmail.com, Chuck Berger at berger@watertownct.org, or Jack Walsh at jack.walsh@valleyunitedway.org.

Sincerely,
NRGSC Co-Chairs:

Ingrid Manning

Chuck Berger

Jack Walsh

*"The Naugatuck River from Torrington to Derby is rich with history, stunning scenery and wildlife. Just as the river built and shaped our towns and cities, the Naugatuck River Greenway will be a driving force for the next century and beyond.
Our mission is to harness the vitality and protect the health of the river for economic development and quality of life for all."*