



Newton Lower Falls
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
a nonprofit organization™

Amanda Lewis,
Recreational Trails Program Coordinator
136 Damon Road
Northampton, MA 01060

April 13, 2017

RE: Two Bridges Trail from Newton Lower Falls to Riverside Grant Application

Dear Ms. Lewis,

The Lower Falls Improvement Association (LFIA) and Bike Newton submitted a grant application for the Feb 1, 2017 deadline to the DCR Recreational Trails Program. In our commitment letter, we indicated that the LFIA board would take the DCR grant application to the LFIA community for approval at our April meeting.

It is clear from our community meeting, held on April 9th, that the membership of the LFIA is divided about the pathway, and could not come to a consensus surrounding LFIA support of the grant. The ensuing discussions with LFIA members and the full board revealed that the pathway remains an issue that divides the community. We also learned that the litigation over the ownership of the corridor remains in court.

As the LFIA membership is divided with regard to the grant, the LFIA withdraws its name as a recipient of the grant. It is not in the best interest of the LFIA community to be a recipient of a grant or to continue to actively support a grant application that may further divide our community.

I hope that the DCR will accept the withdrawal of the LFIA without jeopardizing the grant that Bike Newton continues to support. As I stated in the earlier letter, I will continue to be fully involved with the grant as an individual, though not in my capacity as the LFIA Treasurer.

Sincerely,

Edward H. Chapman
Treasurer LFIA