August 29, 2022

Dear Friends of North Leverett Sawmill and the CPC board,

We, neighbors and abutters, support the creation of a Heritage Park along the Sawmill River on the land owned by the Friends of the North Leverett Sawmill and the Town of Leverett. It will be a needed resource for recreation and will promote understanding about Leverett’s industrial past. School children and residents will be able to study local flora and fauna and gain a greater understanding of what took place when settlers shaped the land with dams and levees to harness waterpower to support mills and iron works. We approve of the Park, as envisioned with native plantings, which will attract pollinators and use principles of regenerative agriculture. We anticipate that it will provide places to reflect on our history and how it affects the present and will be an educational resource and promote discussion of pre-colonial land use by the Pocumtuck/Sokoki and post-colonial industrial development, agriculture, and culture.

We approve of our tax dollars, which have gone into the CPC, being used for planning, design and implementation of this site. Otherwise, the ruins and levee structure along the river will be destroyed. Many families in Leverett built the mills along the river and we will be honoring their hard work. For example, stories of the iron works mills developed over 3 generations by the Graves family highlight the variety of the mills’ uses that were crucial in the development of local agriculture and commerce, except for them and others like them we would not have this rich history to enjoy.

Please accept our support.