

To the Leverett Historical Commission:

Following the intense rainstorm last July that turned Rattlesnake Gutter Road into a series of washouts and deep gullies, it became clear that unless something was done as soon as possible to repair and stabilize the town-owned portion of the road, also known as the Rattlesnake Gutter Conservation Area, the long-term viability of an historic roadway and one of the premier recreational venues in Leverett was in real jeopardy.

After extensive consultation with engineers and current and former supervisors of the Leverett Highway Department, the project steering committee appointed by the Select Board determined what needs to be done to rebuild the collapsed sections of the 180-year-old retaining wall holding the road up above the Gutter, and to repair and expand the drainage system so that it can cope with modern climatic conditions. The attached draft application and map, which we will be submitting to the Community Preservation Commission, describes the project in detail.

But to pay for the necessary work the Town must rely on grant funding, beginning with money from the Community Preservation Act. One requirement for getting CPA money is the submission of letters of support from the community, and we are writing to you today to ask if you would be willing to send such a letter to the Leverett Community Preservation Commission.

All that is required is an expression of support for the project from the Commission in whatever way you feel is most appropriate. The letter does not have to be lengthy. A short paragraph is sufficient, but feel free to convey your support for the project in whatever way you think best. We have attached a sample letter of support. Please feel free to use it, or any part of it, if you find it helpful, but it is only designed as a sample.

Letters should be: 1) addressed to the Leverett Community Preservation Commission; 2) reference the "Rattlesnake Gutter Restoration and Improvement Project;" and 3) be sent to the Rattlesnake Gutter Steering Committee at steve.weiss47@gmail.com so that all of the letters can be assembled as part of the project application. An electronic version of your letter would be most helpful, but, if necessary, a paper copy can be mailed to:

Steve Weiss
178 Montague Rd.
Leverett, MA 01054

It would also be very helpful if your letter could reach us **by September 30**, but we will be happy to accept the Commission's expression of support whenever you are able to

do so. If you have any questions about the project, or the letter of support, please contact Steve Weiss at the email address above or at (413) 230-9454.

Thank you very much for your help on this critical effort.

The Rattlesnake Gutter Road Steering Committee

Steve Weiss

Eva Gibavic

Maria Zieja