

HOPKINTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
ONE TOWN HOUSE ROAD
HOPKINTON, RI 02804

September 24, 2019

Alicia Good, Assistant Director

RIDEM

235 Promenade Street

Providence, RI 02908

alicia.good@dem.ri.gov

RE: Proposed Changes to Freshwater Wetland Regulations

Der Ms. Good:

The Hopkinton Conservation Commission reviewed the draft rewrite of the Freshwater Wetland Regulations and sent a representative to the SEP 11 RIDEM workshop. Thank you for your outreach efforts. We have had limited time to respond by the SEP 25 deadline and have chosen to address Named Rivers.

Regarding the expanded regulatory areas for named rivers within Hopkinton, we do not understand why portions of these rivers are excluded and why significant tributary branches are not included. The Hopkinton Conservation Commission is quite familiar with these sub-watersheds from years of water sampling and working with landowners and developers. Here are brief comments on additions or suggested changes to named rivers of these sub-watersheds we feel should be included:

Brushy Brook – You show the outlet to be Locustville Pond but the actual outlet is downstream of Locustville Pond dam at the Wood River. The Hopkinton Land Trust has been attempting to obtain a wetland permit to install an accessible trail with a \$100,000 RIDEM recreation grant along this downstream section of Brushy Brook for 3 years. Please add this downstream section.

Canonchet Brook – there is a South Fork as well as the North Fork you describe originating at Long Pond. The South Fork, originating south of Stubtown Road is a major contributor tying in with the North Fork just before passing under Route 3 and back in the day had 5 operating mills on it.

Davis Brook – Tanner Brook – this is a river flowing through Hopkinton City and intersecting Tomaquag Brook south of Collins Road. It is largely fed by springs. Hopkinton hosted Bio-Blitz 2016 in this area and Davis Brook fish collections showed it held cold water fish such as trout while Tomaquag Brook in the area held warm water fish.

Grassy Pond Brook – this outflow from Grassy Pond flows under Route 138 and under Grassy Pond Road before merging and diverging from Log House Brook and a dug canal feeding to Yawgoog Pond. There are interesting hydraulics here and the two streams feed three watersheds (Yawgoog Pond, Moscow Brook and Brushy Brook).

Log House Brook – this river originates well north of Grassy Pond Road, not at this road as you indicate.

Mile Brook – this river has 2 major forks, not just the one you show which originates near Egypt Street and flows south under Route 102. The other originates well south of Oak Street and merges with the northern fork at a pond just east of Route 3 before flowing west to the Pawcatuck River.

Parmenter Brook – this trout river originates well north of Clarks Falls Road and empties into the Green Falls-Ashaway River near the Connecticut-Rhode Island border. It was partially relocated when the state constructed I-95 Exit 1 in the 1950s-1960s.

Pawcatuck River – you indicate this River, as far as important habitat, terminates at the confluence with the Ashaway River. The countryside around this river remains very rural for some miles downstream from the Ashaway River and we do not understand why this downstream area is unworthy of maximum regulated area protection.

Tomaquag Brook -this river originates in a swamp just south of Stubtown Road and parallels Canonchet Brook South Fork but at a higher elevation before flowing under Route 3 and I-95 and on to the double pond just north of Woodville Road and on south to the Pawcatuck River. Tomaquag means beaver in the Algonquin language and there is typically plenty of beaver activity on this river.

Town Farm Brook – this river originates on Maxon Hill well south of I-95, flows north under I-95, merges with a smaller northern branch that originates near Town House Road and then flows west under Route 3 and on to Parmenter Brook.

Wine Brook – this is a tributary to Parmenter Brook which also hosts native trout and originates well north of Clarks Falls Road.

Wine Bottle Brook – this trout river originates south of Collins Road and east of Tomaquag Road. It flows south and then west, through a swamp north of Route 216, under Tomaquag Road and Routh 216 and into Tomaquag Brook on Grills Wildlife Sanctuary.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on these Hopkinton rivers. The Conservation Commission requests you modify your named rivers to include all these sub-watersheds that keep our major rivers healthy.

Sincerely,

Harvey Buford

Hopkinton Conservation Commission Chairman

harvey.t.buford@gmail.com

401 932-1383

