

Town of Warner, NH
Conservation Commission



February 1, 2016

Tracie Sales, Rivers Coordinator
NH Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Subject: Designation of the Warner River to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program

Dear Ms. Sales,

The Warner Conservation Commission enthusiastically supports the designation of the Warner River into the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP) per RSA 483. The Warner River flows from the confluence of the West Branch of the river and Andrew Brook in Bradford to its confluence downstream with the Contoocook River. The Warner River provides habitat for a variety of species and two-thirds of its tributaries are home to native brook trout. The river corridor is host to several rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species. Significant areas of "high quality habitat", as defined in the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan, can also be found along the river.

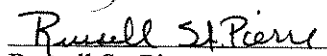
In addition to natural habitat, the Warner River provides residents in the communities of Bradford, Warner, Sutton, Webster, and Hopkinton with multiple recreational opportunities and has been a social and economic focal point within these communities for centuries. There are a number of sites, including three covered bridges, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and there is still historical evidence of once thriving mill communities located in the river and on its banks.


A successful nomination to the NH RMPP will raise public awareness of the valuable assets and resources generated by the Warner River. Nomination will also initiate the establishment of a Local River Management Advisory Committee, an inter-municipal forum where residents, business owners, and other stakeholders can discuss and address river-related issues to balance the needs of all the people who enjoy the multiple uses of the Warner River.

The Warner Conservation Commission is pleased to offer our unqualified support and asks you to give your thoughtful consideration to the designation of the Warner River into the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Commission. Thank you for your consideration.


Sincerely,


Nancy Martin, Chair



Russell St. Pierre



Scott Warren


Phil Stockwell


Robert Nute


Alice Chamberlin


Doug Allen


Michael Amaral