

TOWN OF WEBSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Planning Board
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April 28, 2017

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

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

Dear Ms. Sales,

I am writing in support of the Warner River becoming a “designated river” per RSA 483. Although Webster hosts a short section of the Warner River, it is an important tributary of the Contoocook River, a focal point of Webster’s identity. The river corridor is host to several rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species. Significant areas of high quality habitat can also be found along the Warner River, as defined in the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan.

In addition to natural habitat there are several sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places including three covered bridges. There is still historical evidence of once thriving mill communities in the river and on its banks. While Webster hosts only a small portion of the Warner River, several waterbodies, including Lake Winnepocket flow into the Warner River. Webster’s land use around the lake can affect areas of Warner and Hopkinton downstream.

The establishment of a Local River Management Advisory Committee would be hugely beneficial to the preservation of the Warner River’s many valuable resources and services. Induction of the Warner River into the New Hampshire RMPP would also elevate the awareness of the river and lead to the creation of an inter-municipal forum where residents, business owners, and other various stakeholders can discuss and address river-related issues to balance the needs of many who enjoy the countless uses of the Warner River.

The Town of Webster Planning Board is pleased to support the designation of the Warner River into this important program.

Sincerely,

Susan Rauth, Chairperson