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Proposal to Name Waterways in Weathersfield, VT

Weathersfield Conservation Commission

August 31, 2022

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This proposal to name unrecorded named waterways in the town of Weathersfield, Vermont is a project undertaken by the Weathersfield Conservation Commission (WCC) for the purpose of standardizing waterway names, locations, and watershed areas at the local, state, and federal levels.

Scope

The focus of this project is on streams, but does include other water bodies such as wetlands, ponds, springs, waterfalls, and gorges. These are permitted by the U.S. Geological Survey, (USGS) Board on Geographic Names (BGN) which is the official repository of geographic place names in the United States.

Background

The WCC was asked by Marie Levesque-Caduto, Basin 10 Coordinator for the State of Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Springfield Office to compile Weathersfield waterway names for its water quality monitoring program. The Black River Action Team, a local environmental organization, also asked for stream name data, and ecologist, Elizabeth Thompson, author of the study “Biological Natural Areas of Weathersfield, Vermont” urged that the major wetlands be considered for this project. And not the least, inquiries have been made to use these waterways for dragonfly research, invasive species identification, and the graduate study of the forested wetland natural community.

In Weathersfield a few waterways have already been named and appear on USGS topographic maps: Barkmill Brook, Blood Brook, Mill Brook, Cooks Pond, and Quarry Pond to name a few. When the WCC found existing local names, some names were no longer commonly used and in one case multiple names existed for one brook. For a few brooks no name could be found. Standardizing names is intended to end any confusion about the names and locations of these geographic features.

Of no less importance is the fact that these named streams also identify their watersheds by size and location. Healthy watersheds are of critical importance by providing clean water, storing flood waters, and mitigating the extreme weather events of climate change.

Other benefits accruing from this project are the facilitation of planning infrastructure projects, planning for emergency response, and the provision of aesthetic and recreation enjoyment, although naming in no way implies access across private lands without permission. Because the names largely derive from Weathersfield's early settlers and industries, the history of Weathersfield's settlement may be accessed.

Federal and State Rules For Naming Geographic Places

At the federal level the BGN Domestic Names Committee (DNC) prescribes how geographic features such as waterways may be named, and is the ultimate adjudicator of these proposed names. In as much as most of the waterways considered are streams, BGN guidance (Runyon, 2022) states that "the question of *perennial vs. intermittent* has no bearing on whether a stream should be named. Thousands of streams in the BGN's official names database ([Geographic Names Information System \(nationalmap.gov\)](https://nationalmap.gov)), are likely to be intermittent, but we make no distinction." There are no new regulations attached to these names, to these waterways or to this process that are not already existing in Town Zoning By-Laws or State statutes.

Under the BGN prescriptions, names in present-day local usage are emphasized. Recommended are names connected to historic persons, activities, folklore, natural history, and geographic places. Indigenous-American (Abenaki) names must be considered where present. Names of living people may not be used and deceased people named must be deceased more than five years. Commemorative names may be used but only in special circumstances and carefully justified. Multiple names, duplicate names, and very long names must be avoided. Man-made and administrative structures may not be named. A former name may be recorded as a Variant Name to preserve its historical context. The waterways to be named in this proposal satisfy these requirements.

Preliminary approval must be granted by Vermont Department of Libraries (VDL) which has statutory authority (10 V.S.A., Chapter 9, Paragraphs 151-154) over proposals for new or changes to Vermont place names. Also, the VDL sends proposals out to the related State natural resource agencies for their comments. At the local level, approval is urged to be sought from town select boards and town and regional planning commissions.

Methods

The process of assigning names took a number of forms: location of prospective waterways on topographic maps; review of names already existing at the federal level; examination of historic and current maps and atlases; review of the study of the wetland areas of Weathersfield; consultation with State and local agencies and boards, and outreach to Weathersfield residents.

Because of the large number of small streams and wetlands in Weathersfield, at the outset it was decided to name only unrecorded streams whose watershed areas were ≥ 200 acres and wetlands whose areas were ≥ 10 acres. Stream watershed areas were measured by using the USGS Stream Stats computer software, and wetland areas were measured by using tools of the online Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Atlas.

By considering the project's criteria, studying contemporary topographic maps, other maps, studies, histories, and residents' accounts, 60 prospective waterways were found. Of these, 13 (22%) already had names in the BGN official database, the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), and will not be petitioned in this project. The balance of 47 (78%) waterways did not have names in GNIS. The WCC has assigned names to these waterways and they will be listed in this project.

Most historic maps yielded few waterway names: Whitelaw (1796) named 3; Walling (1860) and found in the Weathersfield Proctor Library named 4; and Beers (1869) named 3. The one historic map found that was of great benefit to this project was historian Ernest Warren Butterfield's 1940 map "Weathersfield Vermont." Butterfield named 30 waterways to which, fortuitous for this project's requirements, he gave names of historic settlers, functions, or geographic places. However, 7 of his are already named in GNIS. Not meeting the project requirements were 4. The WCC adopted the balance of his named waterways and they appear in the accompanying tables. Twelve waterways that Butterfield did not name, but which met other requirements, including 3 named by VT DEC, were listed or assigned names by the WCC.

Another important contribution to this project was the work of ecologist Elizabeth Thompson, whose 1992 study, "Biological Natural Areas of Weathersfield, Vermont," described eighteen important wetlands. Wetlands are now increasingly recognized for their many values: flood water storage, plant and wildlife diversity, rare plant communities, water sources, recreation, and aesthetic qualities. "It is the policy of the State of Vermont to identify and protect significant wetlands and the values and functions they serve." (2018 Black and Ottauquehee Rivers and adjacent Connecticut River Tactical Basin Plan (94). Because listing all the wetlands in this study and all the wetlands in Weathersfield would have made the project too unwieldy, the WCC decided to include only 13 of those ≥ 10 acres. Two of Thompson's names did not meet the state and federal naming requirements and she failed to list 5 wetlands that met the WCC's size requirement. So in these cases, the WCC assigned names.

Finally, we reached out to Weathersfield residents for their suggestions and comments in a variety of ways. A letter was mailed to all town residents explaining the project and asking for comments. A table with a map and information was placed at the 2020 and 2022 annual public Town Meetings. Notices about the project were posted at two town post offices and two local stores. Articles were placed in local newspapers, in a letter-to-the-editor, and in the local Front Porch Forum. The Weathersfield Historical Society (WHS) became an invaluable partner by providing the historical context of most of the names, and the Society placed articles about this project in its member newsletter. Another significant partner, the Weathersfield Proctor Library (WPL), hosted a project display throughout the summer and early fall of 2020 and the spring of 2022. We made personal contacts with long-time Weathersfield residents from whom we garnered much history and lore about various waterways in town. To complete our outreach we contacted ethnohistorian John Moody, co-founder of the Institute For Indigenous Traditions, who gave us the source of three Abenaki waterway names.

Summary

There are 46 proposed unrecorded waterway names. Table 1 lists all proposed names and the latitude and longitude of their outlets for locating on a map. Table 2 lists all streams named,

the sources of the names, where the names are referenced, and their watershed areas. Following these is a more in depth description of each stream, including Variant Names. Table 3 lists all wetlands named with their sources, references, and areas. Following this table are more in depth descriptions of each feature, including Variant Names.. Table 4 lists the other waterways such as ponds, waterfalls, a spring, a gorge, and a gulf. Table 5 lists waterways already in GNIS to account for all the waterways studied. Appendix A is a map that shows these waterway locations.

Table 1. Names, feature class and outlet location of 46 waterways proposed to be named in this project. Names are in alphabetical order within GNIS feature classes: falls 3; lake (ponds 2); spring 1; stream (brooks 25); swamp (wetlands 13) and valley (gorge 1 and gulf 1).

Name	GNIS Feature Class	Latitude (mouth)	Longitude (mouth)
Amsden Falls	falls	43.4057	-72.5054
Blakeslees Falls	falls	43.3794	-72.4171
Perkinsville Falls	falls	43.3733	-72.5113
Barkmill Pond	lake	43.3486	-72.4333
Beaver Pond	lake	43.4093	-72.4642
Great Spring	spring	43.3771	-72.5394
Aldrich Brook	stream	43.3539	-72.4998
Baltimore Brook	stream	43.3317	-72.5195
Center Brook	stream	43.4188	-72.4481
Chapin Brook	stream	43.3479	-72.5017
Chittenden Brook	stream	43.3429	-72.5292
Clark Brook	stream	43.4106	-72.4116
Crown Point Brook	stream	43.4184	-72.5180
Encampment Brook	stream	43.3701	-72.5111
Filley Brook	stream	43.4167	-72.4973
Haskell Brook	stream	43.3341	-72.4093
Lavigne Brook	stream	43.4018	-72.4271
Little Ascutney Brook	stream	43.4244	-72.4945
Nichols Brook	stream	43.3702	-72.4932
Nile Brook	stream	43.3402	-72.5098
Peabody Brook	stream	43.3438	-72.5082
Plains Brook	stream	43.3827	-72.4987
Quarry Brook	stream	43.4129	-72.4194
Richards Brook	stream	43.4107	-72.4116
Roaring Brook	stream	43.4338	-72.4081
Schoolhouse Brook	stream	43.3693	-72.5143
Sherman Brook	stream	43.7834	-72.4159

Spencer Brook	stream	43.4073	-72.5073
Spinning Wheel Brook	stream	43.4131	-72.4512
Turnpike Brook	stream	43.4114	-72.4909
Youngs Brook	stream	43.4332	-72.4923
Aldrich Wetland	swamp	43.3621	-72.4647
Barkmill Wetland	swamp	43.3488	-72.4248
Beaver Pond Wetland	swamp	43.4042	-72.4637
Bowen Road Wetland	swamp	43.3428	-72.4406
Downers Wetland	swamp	43.4019	-72.5131
Jensen Wetland	swamp	43.3535	-72.5237
Kendricks Wetland	swamp	43.3534	-72.5241
Little Ascutney Wetland	swamp	43.4198	-72.5137
Lottery Lane Wetland	swamp	43.4073	-72.5075
North Branch Wetland	swamp	43.4073	-72.5075
North Springfield Reservoir Wetland	swamp	43.2046	-72.3024
Schoolhouse Wetland	swamp	43.3681	-72.5178
Stoughton Wetland	swamp	43.3835	-72.5019
Barkmill Gorge	valley	43.3588	-72.4122
Hidden Glen Gulf	valley	43.4036	-72.4066

Table 2. Names, sources of names, references, and watershed sizes of the 25 streams (brooks) proposed to be named in this project. All of these names have “Brook” on the end and are listed alphabetically.

Brook Name	Source of Name	References	Watershed Size (acres)
Aldrich	By early settler Joshua Aldrich’s mill and house	Butterfield 1940	1,683
Baltimore	Next to Baltimore Rd., headwaters are in neighboring town of Baltimore	SWCRPC 2016 Town of Weathersfield Transportation Map; Butterfield 1940	947
Center	Parallels Weathersfield Center Rd.	SWCRPC 2016 Town of Weathersfield Transportation Map; Butterfield 1940	922
Chapin	Passes by the house of Captain Gideon Chapin who settled in town in the 1780s	Butterfield 1940	576
Chittenden	Flows through the land of the early James Chittenden family	Butterfield 1940	2,355
Clark	Flows by the house of Deacon Gershom	Butterfield 1940	1,101

	Clark, an early settler		
Crown Point	Flows east paralleling the 1759 Crown Point Military Road.	USGS Cavendish Quadrangle topo map 2021	1,139
Encampment	Named for a camp of Maj. John Hawkes as he traveled to Montreal in 1746 to ransom Indian captives	Edith Fisher Hunter 1989	1,139
Filley	Flows past early settler Elnathan Filley's house	Suggested by M. Howard Beach who today resides in the brick house built by Filley	557
Haskell	Widow Sarah Haskell was a first settler on the Bow meadows	Butterfield 1940	473
Lavigne	Flows by the property of former resident Stanton Lavigne; parallels Lavigne Rd.	SWCRPC 2016 Town of Weathersfield Transportation Map	243
Little Ascutney	Flows west from the basin formed by Little Ascutney Mt., Pierson Pk. and hills to the north	USGS, Cavendish Quadrangle topo map 2021; Caduto, VT DEC	467
Nichols	Named after early settler Seth Nichols	Butterfield 1940	1,075
Nile	Flows by area known as "Little Egypt."	Butterfield 1940; Hunter 1975	570
Peabody	Near early settler Moses Peabody's house	Butterfield 1940	224
Plains	Flows in the Plains District valley north of the Plains Cemetery and parallels Plains Rd.	SWCRPC 2016 Town of Weathersfield Transportation Map	800
Quarry	Named for the 19 th century granite quarries on the southeast side of Mt. Ascutney	Butterfield 1940	467
Richards	In land owned by early settler Thomas Richards	Butterfield 1940	454
Roaring	A stream that flows over Blakeslees Falls and is listed in early deeds.	Butterfield 1940	736
Schoolhouse	By 1879 schoolhouse in Perkinsville, VT	USGS Chester Quadrangle topo map 2021	762
Sherman	Leonard Sherman had a mill on the brook in the 1800s	Butterfield 1940; Hunter 1989	2,445
Spencer	Flows by the house of early settler Luther Spencer	Butterfield 1940	461
Spinning Wheel	First factory in Windsor County to manufacture spinning wheels on this brook	Butterfield 1940	390
Turnpike	Flows from Turnpike Hill near where ran the historic Weathersfield Turnpike	Hunter 1989	332

Youngs	Flowed by the property of Young, an early settler	Butterfield 1940; John L. Hurd, 1975	966
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Below are the three major Weathersfield watersheds into which flow the above named brooks. The locations, Variant Names, and sources of the names are presented in greater detail.

BLACK RIVER WATERSHED (The Black River is named in GNIS, appears on USGS topographic maps, and in the VT ANR Atlas so will not be petitioned here.)The brooks (Table 2) are noted starting from the northwest part of Weathersfield and moving to the southwest. See the map.

Little Ascutney Brook Levesque- Caduto, Marie. Personal Communication. May, 2020. Named in the VT DEC database. Located on the USGS Cavendish Quadrangle Map 2021, this tributary of Youngs Brook flows northwest out of the semi-circular basin called “The Great Bowl” (Butterfield 54). The basin is formed by Little Ascutney Mountain to the west and south, Pierson Peak to the east, and high hills on the Weathersfield-West Windsor town line to the north. While an exact Abenaki name for Little Ascutney was not found, the Abenaki name (Kaskakadenak) for Ascutney was and is presented as the nearest related Variant Name (Brown 134, 136).

Youngs Brook Located on the USGS Cavendish Quadrangle Map 2021, it is a tributary of the North Branch Black River. With its headwaters in the southwest corner of the neighboring town of West Windsor, it flows south along Ascutney Basin Road in the area of land which had been sold at a tax sale to Samuel Young in 1813 for a previous owner’s delinquent State taxes (Hurd 103, 121).

Crown Point Brook It is located on the USGS Cavendish Quadrangle Map 2021. As it flows east from its headwaters in the neighboring town of Cavendish, it roughly parallels the 1759 Crown Point Military Road (Butterfield, 1940 Map) and the present-day Tarbell Hill Road. It crosses under Route 106 and enters the North Branch Black River in the hamlet of Greenbush. M. Stankevich, nearby resident, (personal communication, May 13, 2021) gave to this brook the Variant Name “Shack Brook” which was a family name for as long as he could remember.

Sherman Brook It is located on the USGS Windsor VT-NH Quadrangle Map 2021 and the USGS Cavendish Quadrangle Map 2021. From its headwaters in “The Notch,” a saddle between Pierson Peak and Big Ascutney Mountain and the towns of Weathersfield and West Windsor, its long, winding course drains the third largest watershed of these named brooks. It flows south along Ascutney Notch Road, under Henry Gould Road and State Route 131, parallels Piper Road, passes under Gulf Road, then turns west and passes under Plains Road, then under Route 131

again, and under Lottery Lane before flowing into the North Branch Black River upstream from the hamlet of Amsden. Butterfield writes that its name comes from Leonard Sherman who built a small dam and butter tub factory on it in the early 1800s (104).

Plains Brook It is located on the USGS Windsor VT-N H Quadrangle Map 2021. It drains the west side of Pikes Peak and flows in the wide valley west of Plains Road and north of the Plains Cemetery and is in the old Plains District (school). On account that it was not named by Butterfield, nor did it appear on any historic maps or USGS topo maps, the WCC assigned this name because of the named road, cemetery, and school district. It flows into the east side Stoughton Pond, USACE at the boat launch site of Crown Point Campground.

Nichols Brook It is located on the USGS Windsor and the USGS Springfield Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Maps 2021. It flows southeast from the Cady Hill area and along Cady Hill Road to its outlet in the North Branch Black River below the Stoughton Pond Dam and upstream of where the North Branch flows into the Black River. It was named for early settler Seth Nichols (Butterfield, 1940).

Aldrich Brook It is located on the Springfield Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. Butterfield (55,71) gives the Variant Names Boynton Brook and Barretts Brook for early mill owners near its outlet. Joshua Aldrich settled near the brook in 1798 and had a mill on the upper reaches of the stream (Butterfield, 73). It has the fourth largest watershed. From its headwaters on the west side of Camp Hill, it flows west crossing under the Weathersfield Center Road, flowing through the Aldrich mill site and the Springfield Reservoir. It crosses under Reservoir Road before flowing through the Boynton and Barrett mill sites in the SpringWeather Nature Area, USACE and then enters the Black River. The WCC assigned the Aldrich name because Butterfield had given 3 names for different stretches of the same brook.

Peabody Brook It is located on the USGS Springfield Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. A tributary of Aldrich Brook, it flows south from the east side of Butterfield Hill and Bull Run Hill into the Springfield Reservoir. Butterfield (73, 74) named it for early settlers Moses and William Peabody who had a house on "the Ford Road," an early road west of the brook.

Chapin Brook It is located on the USGS Springfield Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021, it has its headwaters in the town of Springfield near the Weathersfield Center Road. First flowing north then abruptly turning west, it runs along the present-day Wellwood Orchard Road to pass under Reservoir Road before entering the North Springfield Reservoir, USACE in the SpringWeather Nature Area of the USACE. Captain Gideon Chapin settled along the road in the 1780s and Gideon Chapin Jr. had an inn and blacksmith shop there (Butterfield, 74).

Encampment Brook It is located on the USGS Chester and Cavendish Quadrangle Maps 2021. Butterfield (74) relates that “Hawkes had his camp here while his scouts watched for Indian smokes from the top of the mountain above.” Butterfield (55) also gives the Variant Names “Billings Brook” or “Holdens Brook” for individuals in the 1800s who had soapstone mining operations near Quarry Road along which Encampment Brook flows. Its headwaters are in the neighboring town of Baltimore draining the south side of Hawks (Hawkes) Mountain. This brook flows into the Black River in the village of Perkinsville.

Schoolhouse Brook It is located on the USGS Chester Quadrangle Map 2021. Unnamed on historic maps, USGS topo maps, and by Butterfield. It was named by the WCC because it drains a watershed west of and next to the Perkinsville 1879 schoolhouse and meets the area requirement. It is a tributary of Encampment Brook.

Nile Brook It is located on the USGS Chester Quadrangle Map 2021. During the unusually cold year of 1816 when many of Weathersfield’s farmers’ corn crops failed to ripen, crops in the area of Kendricks Corner survived because that area was warmer allegedly like that of Egypt. The area was called “Little Egypt” and therefore it followed that the brook flowing through this area became the Nile (Hunter 211, 212) The Nile flows southeast through a large wetland and under Route 106 along Kendrick’s Corner Road, under Kendrick’s Corner Road, and under a runway of Springfield’s Hartness State Airport (USGS, Chester topo map) into the North Springfield Reservoir, USACE.

Baltimore Brook It is located on the USGS Chester Quadrangle Map 2021. It flows southeast from its headwaters on the southeast side of Hawks Mountain in the neighboring town of Baltimore and along Baltimore Road and under State Route 106 becoming a tributary of Chittenden Brook. Butterfield (55) gave the name for its place of origin and provided the Variant Name Piper Brook for the early settler in the area named Piper.

Chittenden Brook It is located on the USGS Chester Quadrangle Map 2021. From its headwaters on the southeast side of Hawks Mountain in the neighboring town of Baltimore, it flows southeast under State Route 106 and Route 10 into the neighboring town of Springfield to join Great Brook just before it enters the Black River. James Chittenden is listed as a freeholder in 1790 and had a house on this brook (Butterfield 38, 55).

MILL BROOK WATERSHED (Mill Brook is listed in GNIS, and shown on USGS topo maps and the VT ANR Atlas and so will not be petitioned to be named here. It is the largest watershed existing almost wholly in Weathersfield at 19,456 acres so it will be considered a major

watershed and its many tributaries will be presented below. Mill Brook is a tributary of the Connecticut River with its outlet just south of Ascutney village.)

The brooks (Table 2) are noted from west to east as they flow into Mill Brook.

Turnpike Brook It is located on the USGS Windsor Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. Because this brook was not named on Butterfield's map, nor any topo map, nor in GNIS, the WCC assigned this name. It flows south from the southwest flank of Mt. Ascutney to cross under State Route 131, then further under Gravelin Road and Gulf Road before it enters Mill Brook. Its name derives from the 1804 Weathersfield Turnpike which route followed Mill Brook over Turnpike Hill to link Sumner's Ferry at the outlet of the Sugar River in Claremont, NH to the Mountain Turnpike in Cavendish, VT. Hunter relates that the present-day State Route 131 mostly follows the old turnpike route (Hunter 195).

Filley Brook It is located on the USGS Windsor Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. Not on Butterfield's map, nor any topo map, nor in GNIS. The WCC assigned this name. It drains Beaver Pond and Beaver Pond Swamp and the area south and west of Beaver Pond and Gravelin Road to pass under Beaver Pond Road as it descends to become a tributary of Turnpike Brook shortly before Turnpike Brook enters Mill Brook. Butterfield (94) recounts that Elnathan Filley had a brick house near the brook on what is now called Beaver Pond Road. This road was formerly locally called Filley Road (M. Howard Beach, personal communication) and the brook name was suggested by Beach, the current resident in the old Filley brick house.

Spencer Brook It is located on the USGS Windsor Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. It Has its headwaters high on the south flank of Mt. Ascutney near the Weathersfield-Windsor town line. It flows south along South Mountain Road and enters Mill Brook north of State Route 131. Butterfield (94) and Map (1940) named the brook after Luther Spencer who is shown with a dwelling there in 1790 at a place where the South Mountain Road splits with sections going east and west, although these sections fell out of use during the mid-1800s.

Spinning Wheel Brook It is located on the USGS Windsor Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. Named by Butterfield (55) for the first spinning wheel factory in Windsor County, it flows south from its headwaters high on the south flank of Mt. Ascutney paralleling Wheeler Camp Road and entering Mill Brook north of State Route 131.

Center Brook It is located on the USGS Windsor Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. Named by Butterfield (55), it flows north in the valley occupied by Little Canada Road, but also paralleling the Weathersfield Center Road further west, and its watershed drains the north-central part of town. It passes under Dan Jarvis Road and State Route 131 before entering Mill Brook north of the highway.

Lavigne Brook It is located on the USGS Windsor Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. Not on Butterfield's map, nor on a topo map, nor in GNIS. The WCC assigned this name. Lavigne is a contemporary name for Stanton Lavigne who once lived near the brook and was deceased 10/6/1978 . It flows north draining the northeast shoulder of Goulden Ridge before running along Lavigne Road into Mill Brook.

Clark Brook It is located on the USGS Windsor Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. Named by Butterfield (55) for early settler Deacon Gershom Clark, its watershed drains a large area of northeast Weathersfield including the southeast flanks of Mt. Ascutney and the terrain along Thrasher Road. In its course it runs under Thrasher Road, Victory Drive, Cowdrey Road, Jason Smith Road, Interstate 91, and State Route 131 into Mill Brook along Hidden Glen Road.

Quarry Brook It is located on the USGS Windsor Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. A tributary of Clark Brook, it drains the southeast flanks of Mt. Ascutney. It parallels an old haul road that brought blocks of granite from the quarries down to Thrasher Road in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Butterfield's Map (1940) shows the relationship of the brook to the granite quarries.

Richards Brook It is located on the USGS Windsor Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. It rises high on the southeast flanks of Mt. Ascutney in the Weathersfield Town Forest. It flows southeast beneath Interstate 91 and Thrasher Road before turning south and flowing in a deep ravine west of Ascutney village before becoming a tributary of Clark Brook. Butterfield (55, 199,101) has the brook named for Thomas Richards who first settled by the Connecticut River but then moved to the main road to Windsor.

DIRECT TRIBUTARIES OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER (Table 2) South of Mill Brook from north to south. Butterfield's Dry Brook has too small a watershed to be listed and Blood Brook and Barkmill Brook are already listed in GNIS, shown on USGS Springfield Vermont-New Hampshire topo maps, and Vt ANR Atlas and so will not be listed here.

Roaring Brook It is located on the USGS Windsor Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. South of Dry Brook and north of Blood Brook, it drains the east side of Goulden Ridge and the area south of Goulden Ridge Road. It passes under Dake Road, Gird Lot Road, and Interstate 91 before flowing over Blakeslees Falls and beneath State Route 5 and then into the Connecticut River. Butterfield (55) states Roaring Brook is an old name and appears in the first deeds of the town.

Haskell Brook It is located on the USGS Springfield Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. South of the hamlet of Weathersfield Bow, it drains the east side of the ridge and the flat “Bow Meadows” south of the village. It flows south into the neighboring town of Springfield where it meets an unnamed Springfield brook before entering the Connecticut River. The first settlers in the “Meadows,” Widow Sarah Haskell and her five sons, give their name to the brook (Butterfield 55, 1940 Map).

Table 3. Names, sources of names, references and areas of the 13 swamps (wetlands) to be named in this petition.

Name	Source of Name	Reference	Area Size (Acres)
Aldrich Wetland	Early settler Joshua Aldrich; in the headwaters of Aldrich Brook.	Thompson, 1992	10.75
Barkmill Wetland	On Barkmill Brook; the early bark-grinding mill on the brook.	Thompson, 1992; USGS, Springfield, Vermont-New Hampshire Quad Map, 2021.	18.0
Beaver Pond Wetland	Surrounding Beaver Pond and next to Beaver Pond Road.	Thompson, 1992; USGS, Mt. Windsor, Vermont-New Hampshire Quad Map2021	35.84
Bowen Road Wetland	For early settler Daniel Bowen Near Bowen Hill Road.	USGS, Springfield, Vermont-New Hampshire Quad Map, 2021.	12.77
Downers Wetland	Near site of Galan Downer’s 19 th Century hotel.	Thompson, 1992.	12.46
Jensen Wetland	Named for John Jensen, a previous property owner.	Thompson, 1992	16.46
Kendricks	Named for the residence of	Thompson, 1992;	29.87

Wetland	early Dr. Ariel Kendrick.	Butterfield, 1940.	
Little Ascutney Wetland	Situated at the base of Little Ascutney Mountain.	Thompson, 1992.	12.0
Lottery Lane Wetland	Located on either side of Lottery Lane Road.	USGS Cavendish Quadrangle Map, 2021.	15.39
North Branch Wetland	Located along the North Branch Black River north of the hamlet of Amsden.	Town of Weathersfield, Town Plan update, 2016, Water Resources and Flood Resilience Map – Draft.	25.75
North Springfield Reservoir Wetland	Located along the Black River behind the Army Corps of Engineers Flood Control Dam.	VT DEC Tactical Basin Plan, 2018.	84.28
Schoolhouse Wetland	Borders Hoisington Field south and west of the former 1879 Perkinsville School.	Thompson, 1992; USGS Chester Quadrangle Map, 2021.	22.65
Stoughton Wetland	Early settler Nathaniel Stoughton. Borders Stoughton Pond, USACE	Town of Weathersfield, Town Plan Update, 2016, Water Resources and Flood Resilience Map	29.80

The wetlands in the above table are described and located in greater detail below.

Aldrich Wetland It is located on the USGS Springfield Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021 on Aldrich Brook east of the Weathersfield Center Road. Called “Heron Rookery” by Thompson (10) because great blue herons nested there in 1992. The site has been abandoned by the herons because there are no longer any nesting trees, so the WCC renamed it Aldrich Wetland for early settler Joshua Aldrich (Butterfield, 55).

Barkmill Wetland It is located on the USGS Springfield Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021 east of upper Bowen Hill Road. This wetland was mapped by Thompson, but not named or described, so it was named by the WCC for the 19th century bark-grinding mill that was located on the brook (Butterfield, 55). Barkmill Brook flows into and out from this wetland and the wetland surrounds Barkmill Pond.

Beaver Pond Wetland It is located on the USGS Mt. Ascutney Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021 next to Beaver Pond Road. Thompson describes this as “one of the largest wetlands in Weathersfield” and “.one of Weathersfield’s most important natural areas” (18). The large area of open water, emergent vegetation, and sedge, grass, and shrub islands make it a waterfowl feeding and breeding area (Thompson, 19).

Bowen Road Wetland It is located on the USGS Springfield Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. Named for nearby Bowen Hill Road and early settler, Daniel Bowen, this is mostly a forested wetland which Thompson says is a “fine example” and calls “moderately unusual”(27). Species diversity is high Thompson noted and the wetland is dominated by red maple, black ash, yellow birch, paper birch, and hemlock (28).

Downers Wetland It is located on the USGS Cavendish Quadrangle Map 2021,. Found at the northeast corner of the Downers Corner highway intersection, Thompson, 21 states that this swamp is primarily a forested and shrub wetland that has been somewhat affected by road building and a powerline that crosses it, although the northern end has been least changed. It is the only wetland described with tamarack as a canopy tree. The name derives from Galan Downer who had a well-known hotel at the corners in the 1800s (Butterfield, 89).

Jensen Wetland It is located on the USGS Chester Quadrangle Map 2021. Named for the contemporary Jensen family, former owners of the property, John Jensen was deceased 5/10/1989 (Hunter, 1989). This wetland is an important waterfowl breeding area (Thompson, 18). Recent beaver activity raising the water level and threatening State Rte. 106, necessitated State Fish and Wildlife to place a “beaver baffle” water level control device in the outlet culvert to maintain the wetland while at the same time protecting the highway.

Kendricks Corner Wetland It is located on the USGS Chester Quadrangle Map 2021. Thompson, 22 describes it as a large shrub and emergent wetland important for bird and other wildlife habitat. It is named for early Dr. Ariel Kendrick who had his home nearby (Butterfield, 57) and the wetland borders Kendricks Road.

Little Ascutney Wetland It is located on the USGS Cavendish Quadrangle Map 2021. Thompson, 21 describes the wetland as having a drier western lobe and a wetter eastern lobe, each having slightly different plant associations. Because the eastern lobe borders the talus at the base of the steep Little Ascutney cliffs., she further states that cold air drainage from the talus may create a cooler microclimate accounting for cooler, wetter conditions in the eastern lobe (21).

Lottery Lane Wetland It is located on the USGS Cavendish Quadrangle Map 2021. Found where Sherman Brook flows into the North Branch Black River north of the hamlet of Amsden,

this wetland was not described by Thompson so it was named by the CC. Largely a shrub wetland, it is crossed by Lottery Lane, a town road.

North Springfield Reservoir Wetland It is located on the USGS Chester Quadrangle Map 2021 bordering reservoir In the Black River behind the USACE flood control dam. This wetland is an altered wetland in that its size and fish and wildlife habitat value varies with the amount of water impounded during flood and non-flood water management. In its stable configuration it can serve as a resting and breeding place for waterfowl and other wildlife. It was not described by Thompson, but is named in the Tactical Basin Plan (2018) of the VT DEC.

North Branch Wetland It is located on the USGS Cavendish Quadrangle Map 2021. It lies along the North Branch Black River between Little Ascutney Road and Vermont State Route 131 north of the hamlet of Amsden Hollow. This primarily shrub wetland was not described by Thompson so it was named by the WCC because it met the size requirement.

Schoolhouse Wetland It is located of the USGS Chester Quadrangle Map 2021. Called “Wetland Behind the School” by Thompson (17), the WCC shortened the name to the one here. It is named for the historic 1879 Perkinsville schoolhouse whose playground borders the wetland. Important because of its size, it also has diverse wetland vegetation types, with part of it a forested wetland with hemlock, red maple, and yellow birch (Thompson 17,18).

Stoughton Wetland It is located on the USGS Cavendish Quadrangle Map 2021. Lying at the north end of Stoughton Pond where the Pond is entered by the North Branch Black River, the Pond is managed by the USACE primarily as a recreation area, but is also utilized for flood water storage. Consequently, the wetland value may be altered as the water level changes. Thompson did not describe this wetland so the WCC named it for early settler, Nathaniel Stoughton (Butterfield, 87)..

Table 4. Sources of names and references for the 3 falls, 2 lakes (ponds), 1 spring, 2 valleys (1 gorge and 1 gulf) and named alphabetically according to GNIS feature class.

Name	Source of Name	Reference
Amsden Falls	19 th Century businessman Charles Amsden; on the North Branch Black River near Amsden Hollow Road.	Dunn, 2015; USGS, Cavendish Quadrangle Map, 2021
Blakeslees Falls	Named for early settler Aaron Blakeslee.	Butterfield, 1940.
Perkinsville Falls	In the village of Perkinsville on the Black River.	Dunn, 2015; USGS, Chester Quadrangle Map, 2021

Barkmill Pond	For an early bark grinding mill on the brook. Barkmill Brook flows into and out from the pond.	Caduto, 2020, VT DEC Map; USGS, Springfield, Vermont-New Hampshire Quad map 2021.
Beaver Pond	Unnamed and not in GNIS but shown on USGS topo and VT DEC map. Beaver Pond Road passes by it.	USGS, Mt. Ascutney, Vermont-New Hampshire Quad map, 2021; Caduto, 2020, VT DEC map.
Great Spring (Encampment Spring)	A reliable spring that is the headwaters of Encampment Brook.	Butterfield, 1940.
Barkmill Gorge	For an early bark grinding mill on the brook. Barkmill Brook flows through the gorge.	USGS, Springfield, Vermont-New Hampshire Quad Map, 2021.
Hidden Glen Gulf (Tuttles Gulf)	Hidden Glen Road passes through the gorge.	SWCRPC Transportation Map; Thompson, 1992.

The above waterways are described in greater detail below.

Amsden Falls It is located on the USGS Cavendish Quadrangle Map 2021. This series of small falls and cataracts is found on the North Branch Black River behind the former residence, store, mill and post office building built by businessman Charles Amsden in 1869. It is in the hamlet of Amsden Hollow on State Rte. 131. The drop in the river here powered a succession of mills beginning in the 1780s and through much of the 1800s. It was named by Dunn, 2015.

Blakeslees Falls It is located on the USGS Windsor Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. Dropping over a 30' precipice, this small falls on Roaring Brook is a popular local sight next to State Rte. 5 four miles south of the village of Ascutney. At the base of the falls, the brook flows under the highway and into the Connecticut River. Butterfield relates that it is named for Aaron Blakeslee, the second settler in Weathersfield, who built near the falls (79).

Perkinsville Falls It is located on the USGS Chester Quadrangle Map 2021. Found in the Black River in the village of Perkinsville, it is best seen from the end of Mill Road east and south of the State Rte. 106 bridge. These low falls or long series of cataracts are immediately below a breached dam that powered numerous 19th century mills.. Named by Dunn, 2015. A Variant Name is Black River Falls (Butterfield,65).

Barkmill Pond It is located on the USGS Springfield Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. It was named by the VT DEC on a map showing their water quality study sites (Caduto , email, November 3, 2020). It was not named in GNIS nor on any topo map. The USGS topo identified above, shows an unnamed pond surrounded by a large wetland into which, and out from which, flows Barkmill Brook. The name derives from the historic 1811 bark grinding mill located downstream from where Bowen Hill Road crosses the brook (Butterfield, 79).

Beaver Pond It is located on the USGS Springfield Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021, but not named on the map nor named in GNIS. It is named Beaver Pond on a VT DEC map (Levesque-Caduto, email, November 3, 2020) Filley Brook flows into and out from the 49 acre pond which lies next to Beaver Pond Road. Butterfield's 1940 map gives the Variant Name, Gravelines Swamp, named for early settler Henry Graveline.

Great Spring It is located on the USGS Cavendish Quadrangle Map 2021 . Butterfield 's 1940 Map places it at the headwaters of Encampment Brook while also referring to it by the Variant Name, Encampment Spring, where Hunter says that Col. John Hawkes camped near there on a mission to ransom Indian captives at Montreal in 1746 (Hunter, 37).

Barkmill Gorge It is located on the USGS Springfield Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. This small, narrow, deeply incised gorge is located on Barkmill Brook where the brook is crossed by Bowen Hill Road. It was the site of an early 19th Century bark-grinding mill that ground hemlock bark for a tannery (Butterfield, 55) in the nearby hamlet of Weathersfield Bow. It is not named in GNIS nor on any topographic map, and, therefore, was named by the WCC.

Hidden Glen Gulf It is located on the USGS Windsor Vermont-New Hampshire Topographic Map 2021. A quarter of a mile south of the village of Ascutney on State Route 5 is Hidden Glen Road which runs west along Mill Brook. The brook here is headed by a small gorge with cataracts that widens into a hemlock-shrouded, steep-sided ravine running along Hidden Glen Road The Variant Name Tuttle's Gulf derives from an early mill owner named Tuttle, so the WCC chose the feature name "Gulf" to describe this area.

Table 5. Waterways in Weathersfield already named in GNIS: 2 falls; 1 lake (pond); 2 reservoirs: and 6 streams (brooks and rivers) listed alphabetically by GNIS feature class. These already have official names in GNIS, so no action is needed. They are listed and described only to give a complete accounting of all Weathersfield waterways.

Name	Source of Name	Reference
Cascade Falls	GNIS, USGS topo	Butterfield, 1940; Ascutney Trails Association, 1967
Little Cascade Falls	GNIS	Dunn, 2015; Parsons and Watson, 2010
Cooks Pond	GNIS, USGS topo	GNIS, USGS, Springfield Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map, 2021
Quarry Pond	GNIS, USGS topo	GNIS, USGS Springfield Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021
Stoughton Pond	GNIS	GNIS
North Springfield Reservoir	GNIS	GNIS
Springfield Reservoir	GNIS, USGS topo	Butterfield, 1940; USGS Springfield Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021
Barkmill Brook	GNIS, USGS topo	Butterfield, 1940
Blood Brook	GNIS, USGS topo	Butterfield, 1940
Mill Brook	GNIS, USGS topo	Butterfield, 1940
Black River	GNIS, USGS topo	Butterfield, 1940; Richardson, 1991; Moody, 2020; CRJC, 2017
North Branch Black River	GNIS, USGS topo	Butterfield, 1940; Hunter, 1989
Connecticut River	GNIS, USGS topo	Butterfield, 1940; Moody, 2020; CRJC, 2017

Sources and descriptions of the above waterways are given below.

Cascade Falls: It is located on the USGS Windsor Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. A small brook in the Mill Brook headwaters falls 84 feet over a 30 foot wide ledge to form this falls in Mt. Ascutney State Park. A hike of 1.1 miles from the trailhead for the Weathersfield Trail brings one to the top of the falls which, in addition to the view, is a regionally important geologic site. A turn from State Route 131 onto Cascade Falls Road, thence to High Meadow Road brings one to the trailhead. The Variant Name “Worsters Falls” named for early settler, Thomas Worster, was given by Butterfield, 54 . The Variant Name “Crystal Cascade” is a contemporary name of unknown origin. The falls are named “Cascade Falls” by the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation in their Mt. Ascutney State Park Recreational Guide, 2011.

Little Cascade Falls: It is located on the USGS Windsor Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. A small unnamed brook in the Mill Brook headwaters falls 60 feet over a series of drops to form this falls in Ascutney State Park. A hike of .4 miles from the trailhead for the Weathersfield Trail brings one to this falls. A turn from State Route 131 onto Cascade Falls Road, thence to High Meadow Road brings one to the trailhead. It is named in the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation in their Mt. Ascutney State Park Recreation Guide, 2011.

Cooks Pond: It is located on the USGS Springfield Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021 and is the only natural, glacially-scoured pond in Weathersfield (Hunter,17). Found at the junction of Yewell Lane and Cooks Pond Road, it is one of the sources of Blood Brook and was named for early settler Oliver Cook (Butterfield, 1940).

Quarry Pond: It is located on the USGS Chester Quadrangle Map 2021 along the upper end of Quarry Road in Perkinsville, VT. It was created in the soapstone quarry where Joshua Martin Billings discovered soapstone in 1850 (Hunter, 243).

Stoughton Pond: It is located on the USGS Cavendish Quadrangle Map 2021. It is a 56 acre pond constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by damming the North Branch, Black River. Named and managed by the USACE, its purpose is to provide all-season day-use recreation. The name derives from Nathaniel Stoughton whose 1789 homestead was flooded by the pond.

North Springfield Reservoir: It is located on the USGS Chester Quadrangle Map 2021. This large dam and impoundment were constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the period 1957 to 1960 and dams the Black River, covering over 1000 acres in the towns of Springfield, VT and Weathersfield, VT. Its drainage area covers 158 square miles. It has the dual functions of flood control and recreation. The name comes from the dam location in the nearby town of North Springfield.

Springfield Reservoir: It is located on the USGS Springfield Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. This dam and small reservoir, although lying wholly in the Town of Weathersfield, is on property owned by the Town of Springfield and was constructed in 1903 by the Town of Springfield for its drinking water supply. At its designed pool level, it covered 11 acres and drained 2.56 square miles, although it is no longer used for its original purpose and is now maintained at a lower pool level. It dams Aldrich Brook near Wellwood Orchard Road in Weathersfield.

Barkmill Brook: It is located on the USGS Springfield Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. This function name describes a mill used for grinding hemlock bark for a tannery owned by former U.S. Consul to Portugal William Jarvis (Butterfield, 54). It drains much of the

eastern side of Camp Hill, has a watershed of 1,459 acres, and is a tributary of the Connecticut River.

Blood Brook: It is located on the USGS Springfield Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. A 19th century family named Blood (Butterfield, 55) lived near the outlet into the Connecticut River. There is the Variant Name “Pond Brook” (Butterfield, 55) because this stream drained Cooks Pond. Blood Brook has a watershed of 1,715 acres.

Mill Brook: It is located on the USGS Windsor Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. This function name has been given by Butterfield to this brook because it flowed through the area where the Proprietors located the first Mill Lot (55, 97). The watershed is 7,040 acres.

Black River It is located on the USGS Chester and Cavendish Quadrangle Maps 2021. This descriptive name has been used by historians from the time of conflicts between English settlers and the French and their Native American allies in the mid to late 1700s for this historic Native American travel corridor (“we travailed upon ye Great River [Connecticut River] within two miles of ye Great Falls [Bellow Falls] in said river, then we went upon land to the Black River above ye great falls, went up that Black River and lodged about a mile-and-a-half from the mouth of the Black River, which days travail we judged was about ten miles.” (Richardson, 21). The CRJC provides the Abenaki name “Mkasawitekwa” in its atlas (Brown) It has a watershed of 204 sq. mi..

North Branch Black River This geographical name is given on the USGS Cavendish Quadrangle Map 2021 . The Variant Name, “The Branch” is given in Butterfield, 54) and the Variant Name, “Mill Branch” is given for historic mills near the hamlet of Amsden on the North Branch River (Butterfield, 54)). It flows from the neighboring towns of Reading and Cavendish into the northwestern part of Weathersfield, is a tributary of the Black River, and has a watershed of 19,456 acres.

Connecticut River It is located on USGS Springfield Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021 and the USGS Windsor Vermont-New Hampshire Quadrangle Map 2021. This geographic name derives from anglicized pronunciations of Indigenous Abenaki variant names QUONEHTACUT, or QUINATUCQUET (long tidal river) in Richardson (1991, p. 8). The CRJC in its atlas (Brown) gives the Indigenous Variant Name as “Kwanitekwa.” It forms the eastern boundary of Weathersfield and has a watershed of 11,000 sq. mi.

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