

Ripton Conservation Commission Statement at 2021-10-07 VT DEC stream reclassification public meeting.

The Ripton Conservation Commission would like to thank the VT Department of Environmental Conservation for considering our petitions to reclassify Alder Brook, Blue Bank Brook, and Goshen Brook from class B(2) to A(1). The Ripton Conservation Commission has worked to understand all of the requirements for stream reclassification and all of the requirements for submitting the petitions. Our investigation and research has supported the water quality sampling that has been done for many years for these streams. These three headwater streams are some of the most pristine streams in Vermont and meet the requirements for A(1) classification.

Benefits of reclassifying these streams from B(2) to A(1):

- Reflects the current conditions showing excellent/very good biological and chemical health, and aquatic habitat (also protected under Vermont's Anti-Degradation Policy).
- The streams will be managed to achieve and maintain waters in their natural condition.
- Providing these streams with a higher level of protection will assist in managing our streams and wetlands in such a way as to help protect against the impacts of extreme weather events.
- Protecting headwater streams is part of Vermont's overall effort to address water pollution.

We hope that the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation will move forward with rule making to reclassify these three streams. We appreciate the time and work that is required to review our petitions and to consider all of the public input. Again, we thank the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation for considering our petitions and look forward to protecting these streams for the animals and plants that depend on them, and for future generations of people that will enjoy them and benefit from their biological and ecological values.