

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**

Seven Hundred and Eighty-seventh Meeting  
Department of the Interior, Kiowa Room  
October 13, 2016 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Eric Berman	Department of Homeland Security (Federal Emergency Management Agency)
Douglas Caldwell	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Jon Campbell	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Jack Crumpacker	Department of Homeland Security
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Brenda-Anne C. Forrest	Government Publishing Office
Tony Gilbert	Government Publishing Office
Bruce Johnson	Library of Congress
Curt Loy	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service) (Chair) (not voting)
Sean Killen	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) (by teleconference)
Jacquie Nolan	Library of Congress
Mike Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Michael Tischler	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Douglas Vandegraft	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) (by teleconference)
Tara Wallace	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

Ex-Officio

Lou Yost, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names/Domestic Names Committee

Staff

Maria McCormick, U.S. Geological Survey (by teleconference)  
Matthew O'Donnell, U.S. Geological Survey  
Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Cassandra Farrell, Library of Virginia  
Kate James, Library of Congress  
Laura Palmer, U.S. Geological Survey  
Scott Zillmer, National Geographic Society

1. Opening

Chair Kanalley opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. She asked the members, staff, and guests to introduce themselves.

2. Minutes of the 786<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The minutes of the 786<sup>th</sup> DNC meeting, held September 8<sup>th</sup>, were approved as submitted.

### 3. Reports

#### 3.1 BGN Chairman (Gilbert)

Gilbert requested that any materials to be included in the BGN Annual Report be submitted soon.

The next Full Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at the Department of the Interior, Kiowa Room.

The BGN will be holding its 31<sup>st</sup> meeting with the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use (PCGN) from October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division.

The Foreign Names Committee (FNC) met on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Executive Committee met on August 25<sup>th</sup> at the State Department. Leo Dillon, committee chair, will provide a report at the next Full Board meeting. Gilbert noted that the committee discussed several recommendations to bring before the Full Board but that no decisions were made by the committee. Items included addressing the reduction/workload of FNC and DNC staffs, gifts to BGN members, the efficiency of the appointment letter process, and public availability of BGN documents.

#### 3.2 BGN Executive Secretary (Yost)

Trent Palmer, Executive Secretary for Foreign Names, recently distributed the agenda for the upcoming BGN/PCGN meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

#### 3.3 Special Committee on Communication (SCC) (Caldwell for Holeva)

Caldwell reported that Paul Holeva, deputy member for the Department of Defense and chair of the Special Committee on Communication, has accepted a new position with Hiawatha National Forest. Holeva sent his regards, adding that he enjoyed his time serving on the DNC and the BGN, and is looking forward to returning to Michigan.

Caldwell will serve as acting chair of the SCC, but announced that a permanent chair is being sought.

There has been no SCC action since last month's meeting.

Caldwell announced that the International Cartographic Conference will be held July 2-7, 2017 in Washington, D.C. The conference will include a toponymy track and there is a call for papers. Yost noted that Lynn Usery of the USGS is the Conference Director for the conference.

Nolan reported that she attends the quarterly meetings of the Senate GIS Working Group, which welcomes speakers to give informal presentations. She suggested this might be a good opportunity to make the working group aware of the BGN, GNIS, and GNS. She asked for possible topics before the next SCC meeting; if there is interest, she will coordinate with the working group as to possible dates. Members discussed the appropriate procedure for any such presentations, which would likely require coordination with departmental congressional liaison offices to approve the content and message. Tischler suggested the presentation should also include coverage of *The National Map* and its geographic names layer.

The next SCC meeting will take place on the morning of the Full Board meeting scheduled for January 17, 2017.

### 3.4 Executive Secretary (Yost)

The Department of the Interior Office of the Solicitor has surnamed the revised *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* document, with a few minor edits. The DNC will need to review these edits before the final version is sent to the Secretary of the Interior.

Maryland has a new State Names Authority, a historic preservation information systems specialist. She will coordinate with the Maryland State Geographic Information Committee on future proposals. This combination of history, toponymy, and technology should prove very helpful for providing State input on future name proposals.

The 2017 Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 8-12 in Richmond, Virginia. All members, deputies, and others are encouraged to attend and to register soon. Yost invited Cassandra Farrell to speak to the DNC about the planning process. She reported that the conference will be held at the Library of Virginia and that a block of rooms has been arranged at the nearby Hilton Hotel. The Toponymic Tour will be held on Friday, May 12. Farrell also asked for any volunteers to join the local planning committee. She is working with Sandra Treadwell, Virginia State Librarian, and Wayne Furr, Executive Secretary of COGNA, to plan the conference.

The DNC has received a proposal to change the application of the name of Chipeta Mountain in Colorado. A summit in Saguache County is named for Ute Chief Ouray, and Chipeta Mountain, located nearby in Chaffee County, is named for his wife. The proponent notes that the latter name does not apply to the highest point on the mountain but to a sub-peak, although it is on the Continental Divide. He believes the application should be changed. The name has been applied to its current location for decades, although there are reports that locals have always believed that the name referred to the higher peak.

The DNC has been receiving a number of proposals to apply full commemorative names rather than simply surnames. Although the staff informs proponents that full names are discouraged and that they typically violate the Long Names Policy, proponents are requesting exceptions in the belief that the full name more accurately honors the individual. Yost pointed out that the DNC has frequently approved such requests and so the staff is seeking guidance on how to handle these situations. He noted that in the past, the DNC would sometimes choose to approve a shorter version of a name despite it having been proposed and processed with the full name; however, the present-day philosophy of the DNC is that it can only vote on the name exactly as it is submitted and that only the proponent can amend a name. A suggestion was made by one of the members that, in situations when a full name is not approved because it violates the Long Names Policy, the proponent should be informed that the shorter name would likely be approved if resubmitted. However, staff noted that this procedure would require additional effort as all parties would need to be re-contacted. After further discussion, the staff was advised to reply with a stronger recommendation to proponents of full commemorative names, stating that the BGN would likely not approve the full name. In order to determine how frequently this situation occurs, the staff will prepare a list of past commemorative names that were originally proposed with full names, noting the proponents' responses to the stated guidelines.

The memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the U.S. Geological Survey, the General Services Administration, and the Office of Personnel Management is being circulated through USGS and is expected

to be signed by all parties soon. As a result of this action, the two non-BGN agencies will be maintaining data in GNIS.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold a GIS Day on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The BGN will have a table with information about GNIS. Nolan added that the Library of Congress GIS Day will also be on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Some updates to BGN brochures are in progress, and should be completed in time for these events.

Yost asked members to make a decision on the DNC response to proposals from the Grant County (Oregon) Court to change the recently approved names Wíwaanaytt Creek and Wíwaanaytt Meadow to Sullens Creek and Sullens Meadow. After considerable discussion, a motion was made and seconded to not consider and process these proposals, citing the need for a period of stabilization following a recent BGN decision.

Vote:           15 in favor  
                  0 against  
                  0 abstentions

### 3.5 Staff (Runyon)

Runyon thanked Ms. Farrell for attending today's meeting to provide input on the upcoming COGNA Meeting and also to be available in case there were any questions that the staff could not answer regarding the proposal on today's docket to change the name of the community of Tyson's Corner to Tyson's.

Runyon welcomed Jack Crumpacker to the DNC and the BGN, noting that it was good to once again have the Department of Homeland Security fully represented.

Appointment letters for the 2015-17 term have been received from a number of departments.

The status of the Colorado Board on Geographic Names is uncertain following the retirement of the State Archivist, who had served as executive secretary of the board. The remaining members are either retired from State government, are Federal employees, or from academia. Without State agency representation, these members are reluctant to provide recommendations on behalf of the State. As a result, a letter has been sent by the DNC to the Governor of Colorado to request his recommendations on each of the pending Colorado proposals. Tischler has also offered to see if there is any interest within the State geospatial community.

Three Minnesota proposals have been pending for well over a year. Minnesota law requires that any proposal for a feature in the State be considered at a county hearing at the proponent's expense. The pending cases were all submitted to the DNC, and as such, the DNC is obligated to consider them. After receiving the proposals from the DNC, the Minnesota State Names Authority contacted each of the proponents to advise them of the State requirement, but to date, none has arranged the required hearing, and as a result, the SNA is unable to provide a recommendation to the DNC. The DNC staff has asked each of the proponents if they wish to continue with their proposal. One has withdrawn his proposal; one response isn't clear as to whether the proposal should still be considered; and one has not returned any messages or phone calls. Staff asked the DNC if they wished to vote on the remaining proposals without State input. Staff was directed to continue to try to contact the proponents.

A proposal on Review List 395 for Briar Hill in New Hampshire has been withdrawn by the proponent after

the DNC staff found additional historical information that appears to contradict the application.

The proposal to change the name of the South Dakota community of Marty to Wiciyena Oyate has also been closed, due to a lack of communication from the proponent. The community is located on the Yankton Indian Reservation and the proponent was advised that she needed to obtain input from the Tribal Council. The DNC staff informed the proponent that the case could be reopened in the future.

The Department of the Interior's Kiowa Room has been reserved for all DNC meetings in 2017 (except for the May meeting, which will take place instead during the COGNA meeting in Richmond). The locations of future Full Board quarterly meetings will be discussed at the upcoming meeting.

On the day following this meeting, Runyon will attend the quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Maryland State Geographic Information Committee to provide information on the Federal geographic naming process and to meet with the new Maryland State Names Authority.

Runyon recently participated in a conference call with the Wild and Scenic Rivers working group. The primary topic was the addition of unit names and boundaries to USGS topographic maps, and the group discussed the need to consult GNIS to verify such names. A number of Wild and Scenic Rivers are listed in GNIS but the majority are not and so a member of the working group offered to do an analysis and compare its list with GNIS. The question was raised as to what happens when the DNC changes the name of a stream that has Wild and Scenic designation; how the U.S. Congress is involved in and responsible for the naming of such units; and how the DNC processes administrative versus natural feature names.

Meredith Westington, former deputy member from the Department of Commerce, sent a card thanking the DNC for its gift and including some baby photos.

### 3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

The landforms polygon tool has been stable in recent weeks. Developers have enhanced the tool with new image services, which include improved terrain visibility for Alaska and the Pacific islands. Landform collection has been completed for Alaska; staff will now work on Hawaii.

McCormick met with National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) staff to discuss procedures for provisional names. NHD staff anticipates finding names for streams not currently listed in GNIS. If these names meet sufficient criteria, they can be added to GNIS; otherwise, the NHD staff will be instructed to submit formal proposals to the DNC. A new names maintenance tool is being developed, so this is an interim procedure.

The Geographic Names Coordinator for Forest Service Region 10 (Alaska) is continuing his project of collecting Alaska Native names in southeast Alaska. A small number have been submitted to McCormick for review, and if there are no issues, these will be added to GNIS. Any names found for features in Federal wilderness areas will require formal proposals to the DNC with a justification for overriding the Wilderness Names Policy.

GSA has submitted two files of GNIS updates ahead of the aforementioned MOU. The smaller file was easily imported, but the larger one contains 39,000 records and will need some additional processing before it can be imported.

New GNIS download files have been posted on the BGN's website.

End-of-year production numbers for the GNIS staff were in line with expectations and goals. 504 new records were added to GNIS, and over 16,900 edits were made.

One member left the meeting.

#### 4. Docket

Please refer to the attached Docket for a description of each proposal. For new names approved at this meeting, the newly assigned GNIS Feature ID (FID) has been noted following the name.

### **I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties - none**

Change **Tysons Corner** (FID 1496341) to **Tysons**, Virginia (Review List 422)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote:	11 in favor
	1 against
	2 abstentions

The negative vote was cast in the belief that a longstanding name should not be changed.

One member left the meeting.

### **II. Disagreement on Docketed Names**

Change **Coon Creek** (FID 221504) to **Raccoon Creek**, California (Review List 422)

A motion was made and seconded to defer a vote on this change in order to have further discussion at a future meeting on the merits of the proposal. The motion passed by consensus.

**Tubsinte Hill** and **Wenahmon Huyah**, California (Review List 423)

A motion was made and seconded to vote on these two names together and to dispense with the reading of the case summaries.

Vote:	10 in favor
	2 against
	1 abstention

A motion was made and seconded not to approve these names, citing a lack of local support and the negative recommendations of the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names.

Vote:	12 in favor
	0 against
	1 abstention

One member left the meeting.

### III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the next two case summaries.

Vote:           12 in favor  
                  0 against  
                  0 abstentions

#### **Buster Gene Lake**, Alaska (Review List 425)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name. After discussion of the Long Names Policy, the motion was withdrawn. A motion was then made and seconded to approve the name, but it did not receive a second and so the motion failed.

One member left the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the Long Names Policy.

Vote:           7 in favor  
                  4 against  
                  0 abstentions

The negative votes (for the proposal) were cast in support of Alaska Board on Geographic Names approval of the name.

One member rejoined the meeting.

#### **Carrie Creek**, Alaska (Review List 425) (FID 2785427)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this name, citing a lack of significant long-term association between the honoree and the feature, as stated in the Commemoratives Names Policy.

Vote:           5 in favor  
                  6 against  
                  1 abstention

The negative votes (for the proposal) were cast in support of Alaska Board on Geographic Names approval of the name.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote:           6 in favor  
                  4 against  
                  2 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in the belief that the name does not satisfy the criteria of the Commemorative Names Policy.

Two members left the meeting.

**Twenty-three stream and falls names in the Town of Rockingham, Vermont** (Review List 425)

A motion was made and seconded to vote on all Vermont names on the docket regardless of category and to dispense with the reading of the case summaries (eleven of the names are listed in the Docket under Category V).

Vote:           8 in favor  
                  1 against  
                  1 abstention

Change **Albees Cove** (FID 2784589) to **Allbees Cove**, **Barnes Brook** (FID 2785372), **Beaver Dam Brook** (FID 2785381), **Brockways Mills Brook** (FID 2785387), **Ellis Brook** (FID 2785373), **Farr Brook** (FID 2785374), **Gages Falls** (FID 2785368), **Hitchcock Brook** (FID 2785375), **Hyde Hill Brook** (FID 2785376), change **Lily Brook** (FID 1458210) to **Lillie Brook**, **Locke Brook** (FID 2785382), **Noyes Brook** (FID 2785383), **Petty Brook** (FID 2785377), **Pleasant Valley Brook** (FID 2785378), **Saxtons River Falls** (FID 2785369), **Signal Hill Brook** (FID 2785379), **Skunk Hollow Brook** (FID 2785380), **Sokoki Falls** (FID 2785370), change **Stream Brook** (FID 2784588) to **Stearns Brook**, **Twin Falls** (FID 2785371), **Upper Meadows Brook** (FID 2785384), **Warner Brook** (FID 2785385), and **Wiley Hill Brook** (FID 2785386)

A motion was made and seconded to approve these new names and name changes.

Vote:           9 in favor  
                  0 against  
                  1 abstention

**IV. Revised Decisions - none**

**V. New Names Agreed to by all interested parties**

**Earth Day Sinking Stream**, Florida (Review List 401) (FID 2785406)

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the case summary.

Vote:           10 in favor  
                  0 against  
                  0 abstentions

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote:           10 in favor  
                  0 against  
                  0 abstentions

5. Other Business

No other business of significance was discussed.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m. The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. at the Department of the Interior, Kiowa Room.

(signed) Louis A. Yost

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Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED

(signed) Betsy Kanalley

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Betsy Kanalley, Chair  
Domestic Names Committee

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE  
DOCKET  
October 2016**

**I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties**

Change Tysons Corner (FID 1496341) to Tysons, Virginia  
(Review List 422)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=38.9187222&p\\_longi=-77.2310925&fid=1496341](http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=38.9187222&p_longi=-77.2310925&fid=1496341)

The U.S. Census Bureau received a request from the Fairfax Outreach Director, the Office of Congressman Gerry Connolly, and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to change the official name of the Tysons Corner Census Designated Place (CDP) to Tysons Census Designated Place. The change would recognize the name that has come into increased local use, both by residents of and visitors to the area, and by local businesses. This proposal is to change the name of the associated unincorporated populated place from Tysons Corner to Tysons (CDPs are typically named in association with that of the predominant community).

In April 2015, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors requested that county staff “use Tysons exclusively and whenever feasible and practical, and change previous instances to reflect the new Tysons designation.” The name Tysons has been in use locally by the Tysons Partnership, a non-profit organization that is similar to a chamber of commerce. The partnership has been marketing commercial and residential development in the area under the new name. The U.S. Postal Service has confirmed that both Tysons Corner and Tysons may be used for ZIP codes 22102 and 22182.

In the mid-1800s, the area that now comprises Tysons Corner was known as Peach Grove or Peach Grove Crossroads. The name Tysons Corner came into use sometime after the Civil War. USGS topographic maps first showed the community in 1894 and labeled it Tyson Cross Roads. According to many sources, the name comes from William Tyson, a Maryland native who bought the land in the 1850s and who served as the local postmaster from 1854 to 1866. A War Department map from 1862 labels the area as “Tyson,” presumably showing the land owned by Mr. Tyson. In 1945, USGS maps began labeling the feature Tysons Crossroads, with the name Tysons Corner having been labeled since 1956. Despite predominant usage of the latter name for many decades, a 1956 Shell Oil Company map labeled it simply Tysons.

In 2011, the Fairfax County government website posted a notice, “Tysons is now an Officially Accepted Mailing Address.” In late 2012, the Tysons Partnership began rebranding the area as Tysons. At the time, the Partnership’s executive director stated that “Tysons indicates more than what Tysons Corner has meant historically.... We want people to recognize that something exciting is happening here.” Many signs in the area now read simply “Tysons.”

In 2012, *The Washington Post* published an article titled “Tysons Corner is unofficially dropping the ‘corner’ from its name,” and the change has also been covered in the past year in the *McLean Patch*, *The Washington Business Journal*, and on local radio stations. In 2015, *Bizjournals* published an article “Tysons to officially drop ‘Corner’ from name in Census Bureau decision,” which further stated “To enable federal mapping agencies to apply the change, the U.S. Geological Survey’s Board of Geographic Names

[sic] will work with the Census Bureau to update its databases.”

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recommends approval of the proposed change.

The Virginia Board on Geographic Names (VBGN) conducted an extensive research process and solicited opinions from many sources. The Town of Vienna (which borders the proposed Tysons and includes part of it in its ZIP Code) did not respond to requests for an opinion. The VBGN also contacted the Providence District Council, the McLean Citizens Association, the Fairfax County Historical Society, the Fairfax County Genealogical Society, the Westbriar Civic Association, the Greater Tysons Citizen’s Coalition, and the McLean Citizens Association (McLean borders the proposed Tysons). No replies were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion. The VBGN also asked for opinions from members of the Washington Map Society at its February 2016 meeting; members in attendance did not have strong opinions either for or against the proposal. The VBGN submitted a letter to the editor of *The Fairfax Times* in regards to this proposal but it was not published.

The VBGN has no objection to the proposed change, stating: “We have heard back from several organizations and there were no serious objections given. The reasons for this name change are economic and political in nature and most people who live in the Tysons Corner area understand and support this. The VBGN sees no reason to change the name of Tysons Corner but if the locality supports it we see no reason to object.”

The U.S. Postal Service also has no objection, stating that “The USPS already has Tysons as an acceptable mailing name for the two ZIP Codes currently using Tysons Corner. Either will be acceptable for mailing purposes.”

According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized Tribes with an interest in Fairfax County.

GNIS lists several nearby features with names that include “Tysons” or “Tysons Corner.” In addition to the populated place and the CDP, five administrative names contain “Tysons Corner,” including the Tysons Corner Post Office and the Tysons Corner Metro Station that opened in July 2014. The populated place Tysons Green and Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library are in the area. Two local malls are named Tysons Corner Shopping Center and Tysons Galleria, and Tysons Station Shopping Center is nearby.

## II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change Coon Creek (FID 221504) to Raccoon Creek, California  
(Review List 422)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=38.8453124&p\\_longi=-121.5748736&fid=221504](http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=38.8453124&p_longi=-121.5748736&fid=221504)

This proposal is to change the name of Coon Creek, a 35-mile-long stream that heads in Placer County and then flows generally west-southwest into Sutter County to enter Main Canal. The proponent believes that renaming Coon Creek to Raccoon Creek would remove any possible interpretation that the term “coon” refers in a derogatory manner to a black person.

The name Coon Creek has appeared on maps of California since 1851, including John C. Hayes’ 1855 *Map of Public Surveys in California*. It has also been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1891 and is on

current maps of Hidden Falls Regional Park. The origin of the name has not been determined. According to David Durham's 1988 volume *California's Geographic Names: A Gazetteer of Historic and Modern Names of the State*, there was once a settlement in Placer County named Coon Creek, and the Coon Creek Post Office operated from 1856 to 1860. Edwin Gudde, in his 1975 volume *California Gold Camps*, states: "Coon Creek [Placer]: This was once a rich camp, but already in 1855 it was dying 'a natural death.' Coon Creek and School District are shown on the County Map, 1887, northwest of Ophir." William Bright's 1998 edition of Gudde's *California Place Names* notes: "Coon: About fifty physical features in the State, mainly creeks, are thus named, mostly because of the presence of raccoons, although some may have been named for settlers named Coon." An online search of Census and vital records for Placer County yielded numerous individuals with the surname Coon, including many in the mid-nineteenth century and many with China listed as the place of birth.

In November 2012, a proposal was submitted to the BGN to change the stream's name to Hidden Falls Creek because of a portion of the stream flows through Hidden Falls Regional Park (the falls named Hidden Falls are not located on the stream but on one of its unnamed tributaries); however, the proposal was not approved in March 2014 citing the negative recommendations of the Sutter County and Placer County governments and the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN). Both counties stated that there was no evidence that the name had been applied with derogatory intent and that they would prefer to retain the name that has been used for over 100 years. One of the Sutter County supervisors and a member of the Placer County Historical Society both added that the name likely referred to raccoons. The management of Hidden Falls Regional Park stated it would defer to the county supervisors. The CACGN, recommending against the change in 2013, stated that it had "found no evidence of African-American association with the area, and no evidence of derogatory usage."

The Sutter County Board of Supervisors does not support the proposed change. The Placer County Board of Supervisors was asked to comment, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion. The Placer Land Trust has no opinion. The management of Hidden Falls Regional Park (part of the Placer County Parks Division) deferred to the county supervisors on the previous proposal for Hidden Falls Creek. Park staff did not reply to the BGN staff's more recent request to comment on the proposed Raccoon Creek, and it is presumed that they continue to defer to the county supervisors.

The CACGN recommends that the proposal not be approved "to maintain historical usage" and in the belief that "the name was not found to be derogatory."

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized Tribes: the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria of California; the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; and the Wilton Rancheria. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

GNIS lists 50 features in California with names that include the word "Coon," nineteen of which are streams. A search for the word "Raccoon" found one Raccoon Creek in Siskiyou County.

#### **Tubsinte Hill, California**

(Reivew List 423)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=37.7093318&p\\_longi=-122.3977999](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=37.7093318&p_longi=-122.3977999)

This unnamed 135-foot summit is located on the west side of San Francisco Bay, 1.3 miles southwest of Candlestick Point and just north of Visitacion Valley. The proposed name Tubsinte Hill is intended to recognize the historical Yelamu Ohlone village Tubsinte, which existed in Visitacion Valley in the mid-to-

late eighteenth century. The proponent notes that the Yelamu Ohlone people who lived there built shell mounds and spoke the Ramaytush language. A document at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area website, entitled *Vestiges of Lands End*, states, “The inhabitants of the north end of the San Francisco peninsula from at least 500 to 1780 A.D. were known as the Yelamu, who lived in five known inland villages; Chutchui, Sitlintac, Amuctac, Tubsinte and Petlenuc.” It continues, “Long before Europeans arrived in North America, the Yelamu Ohlone tribe lived at Lands End in seasonal settlements. Here at the ocean’s edge, they found everything they needed: hillside springs gushing with fresh water; trees and brush for shelters; and easy access to the shore, where they fished and hunted for otters, sea lions, and sea birds. For leisure, they played stick games and told tribal stories. Spanish settlement of San Francisco, which began in 1776, ended the Yelamu’s traditional life at Lands End.” The summit is the site today of a large dump/waste transfer station.

Both the San Francisco County Board of Supervisors and the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors were asked to comment on the proposal; no responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The CACGN recommends that the proposal not be approved citing a lack of local support and a lack of an “overriding reason to name the feature.”

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized Tribes: the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians of California; the Santa Rosa Indian Community of the Santa Rosa Rancheria; the Table Mountain Rancheria of California; the Tule River Indian Tribe of the Tule River Reservation; and the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

**Wenahmon Huyah**, California

(Review List 424)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=37.7090041&p\\_longi=-122.4191872](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=37.7090041&p_longi=-122.4191872)

The new name Wenahmon Huyah is proposed for a 184-foot, 314-foot-long ridge located in the Visitacion Valley neighborhood of San Francisco, just north of the boundary between the City and County of San Francisco and San Mateo County. The name was originally proposed as Wiinahmin Hill (Review List 420), but after the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) learned that the Muwekma Ohlone Language Committee preferred the spelling of Wenahmon Huyah, the proponent agreed to amend his proposal accordingly. The proposed name reportedly means “bird hill” in the Ramaytush Ohlone language. The proponent states that crows nest in the three Monterey cypress trees that grow on the top of the ridge. He claims also that there are no place names within San Francisco using the Ramaytush Ohlone language.

In the Mission Bay area of the city, approximately five miles from the feature in question, the San Francisco Art Commission has installed a series of 104 mini-plaques, each of which includes one of 104 Ramaytush words. According to the Historical Marker Database, “For more than 1,500 years the native people of Mission Bay lived here and spoke a language called Rammaytush [sic]. Of Rammytush (Rah-my-toosh) [sic], only 104 words have been discovered – with certainty. These translated words are embedded for you to consider as you walk along King Street, remembering when it bordered a bluff overlooking Mission Bay. A linguistic scholar, archaeologist Richard Levy has collected these words and studied them in their historical context: his research gives an authentic voice to the vanished people of Mission Bay.” One of these plaques translates “bird” as “wiinahmin.”

The City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors stated that they had no opinion about the name Wiinahmin Hill; no response was received about the name Wenahmon Huyah, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion. The CACGN recommends that the proposal not be approved, citing a lack of local support and a lack of an “overriding reason to name the feature.”

According to NAGPRA, there are no federally recognized Tribes with an interest in San Francisco County.

### III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties

#### Buster Gene Lake, Alaska

(Review List 425)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=62.5180555&p\\_longi=-144.9711111](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=62.5180555&p_longi=-144.9711111)

This 187-acre lake, located at the head of Little Tulsona Creek, is proposed to be named Buster Gene Lake in honor of Buster Gene (1909-1993). A native of Chistochina, Mr. Gene served as a mail carrier between Chisana and Chistochina. He also worked for the Alaska Road Commission and later for the Alaska Department of Transportation (AKDOT). When he retired, the State of Alaska recognized Mr. Gene for his 50 years of service to the AKDOT. From 1970 until his death at his homestead by the lake, he helped identify village and cemetery sites for Ahtna, Inc. He was a local historian, songwriter, and teacher of Ahtna heritage to young people in Gakona and Gulkana. After his death, the Gakona Village Council named its new community center the Buster Gene Memorial Facility. The proponent, who is a member of the Native Village of Gakona and who submitted the proposal on behalf of Ahtna, Inc., feels that naming the lake near his homestead “would honor his dedication to the community, recognize a significant long-time local resident, and provide a name for a popular and prominent lake in the area.”

In addition to the Native Village of Gakona and Ahtna, Inc., the Alaska Board on Geographic Names solicited opinions from Gulkana Village, a federally recognized Alaska Native group, as well as the Copper River Village Association and the Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium/Ceesh’na Tribal Council. Ahtna, Inc. and the Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium/Ceesh’na Tribal Council support the proposal. The lack of responses from the other groups is presumed to indicate no opinion. The editor of the Copper River *Record* also endorses the name. The Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Alaska Native Language Center at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks did not respond to requests for comment. The State Board recommends approval of the proposal.

A query of GNIS found six features in Alaska with the word “Buster” in their names: a bay and five streams, none of which are in the Valdez-Cordova Census Area.

#### Carrie Creek, Alaska

(Review List 425)

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=59.6952777&p\\_longi=-151.4572222](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=59.6952777&p_longi=-151.4572222)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=59.6908333&p\\_longi=-151.4541666](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=59.6908333&p_longi=-151.4541666)

This 0.3-mile-long stream is proposed to be named officially Carrie Creek in honor of Carrie Anne (Lyon) Kessock (1973-2010), who as a child loved to play along the stream. The proponents, Ms. Kessock’s parents, own the land at the stream’s source.

The Mayor of the City of Homer supports the proposal, as does the owner of the other property along the stream. The Alaska Board on Geographic Names (AKBGN) received petitions in support of the name from

many residents of Homer and from some living outside Alaska. The AKBGN asked the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, a federally recognized Tribe for comment, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

The other owner of property along the stream supports the proposal. The Alaska Board on Geographic Names solicited opinions from interested parties. The Mayor of the City of Homer supports the proposal, while the Mayor of Kenai Peninsula Borough did not respond, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion. The State Board received petitions in support of the name from many residents of Homer and from some living outside Alaska, and recommends approval of the proposal. The Kenaitze Indian Tribe, a federally recognized Alaska Native group, did not respond to the State Board's request for comments. The members noted that, while their guidelines indicate a preference for using the honoree's last name and a long significant association with the feature or area, "these are not hard and fast rules."

A query of GNIS found no other features in Alaska with the word "Carrie" in their names.

### **Eleven stream names in the Town of Rockingham, Vermont**

(Review List 425)

These eleven proposals are the first of 24 names (23 on this docket) submitted by a representative of the Rockingham Conservation Commission (RCC) in the Town of Rockingham in Windham County. The list includes newly proposed names, names reported to be already in local use, and changes to existing names to recognize local usage. The following eleven commemorative names include changes to existing names, names published in non-Federal sources, and names reported to already be in local use. Other names are included below in Section V. One of the 24 proposals is for a feature that straddles the Vermont-New Hampshire State line and so it is deferred until the New Hampshire Board on Geographic Names has had an opportunity to provide a recommendation.

In describing the naming project, the proponent states that the Rockingham Town Selectboard gave the RCC approval in April 2014 to start the effort by conducting public outreach. During a number of local events, the RCC displayed a poster-sized map showing the unnamed streams and asking the public if they were aware of names for them. A GIS specialist at Windham Regional Commission assisted in the production of the map. The RCC also consulted all available historical maps, but very few label streams. They also consulted local experts, including zoning officers and historians, and publicized the effort in local newspapers. They sent over 250 letters to landowners along or near the 16 streams and waterfalls that had less well-established names; four suggested names form local history and another provided an Abenaki name. Finally, a presentation was made at the Rockingham Library, and the map was also on display at the Bellows Falls Town Hall. The proposed names were presented during a Selectboard meeting in June 2015. In conclusion, "People care more about natural features that have names; they are more likely to notice them and work to protect or restore them."

All names and changes have the approval of the governments of the Town of Rockingham, the Town of Springfield, the Town of Westminster, the Bellows Falls Village Corporation, and the Village of Saxtons River. The Vermont Board of Libraries, which serves as the State Names Authority, also recommends approval of the 24 names.

According to NAGPRA, there are no federally recognized Tribes with an interest in Windham County.

### Proposed changes to existing names

Change **Albees Cove** (FID 2784589) to **Allbees Cove**

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=43.1524631&p\\_longi=-72.455658&fid=2784589](http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=43.1524631&p_longi=-72.455658&fid=2784589)

This proposal is to change the name of Albees Cove to Allbees Cove to recognize the spelling of the name of Ebenezer Allbee (b. 1743), one of the first settlers in the area. The name Albees Cove has been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1985. The cove was used to store logs that had floated down the river, before they were taken to paper mills in Bellows Falls. Remnants of the timber and stone piers that helped hold those logs in place are still present.

Change **Lily Brook** (FID 1458210) to **Lillie Brook**

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=43.2061874&p\\_longi=-72.5050892&fid=1458210](http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=43.2061874&p_longi=-72.5050892&fid=1458210)

This proposal is to change the name of Lily Brook, a 2.6-mile-long tributary of the Williams River, to Lillie Brook. The stream has been labeled Lily Brook on USGS topographic maps since 1984. The proponent reports that the stream was named for Erwin (Erving) A. Lillie, who owned a farm in the Town of Springfield in 1907.

Change **Stream Brook** (FID 2784588) to **Stearns Brook**

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=43.2066628&p\\_longi=-72.5361134&fid=2784588](http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=43.2066628&p_longi=-72.5361134&fid=2784588)

This proposal is to change the name of Stream Brook, a 1.8-mile-long tributary of the Williams River, to Stearns Brook. Although the stream has been labeled Stream Brook on USGS topographic maps since 1984, the proponent reports that it was named for the Stearns family, who settled in the area in the late eighteenth century. McClellan's 1856 *Map of Windham County, VT* shows an E. Stearns living along the stream. Stearns is still a common surname in the area.

### Names found on sources other than Federal maps

#### **Ellis Brook**

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.1599&p\\_longi=-72.4745](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.1599&p_longi=-72.4745)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.16459&p\\_longi=-72.4913](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.16459&p_longi=-72.4913)

The name Ellis Brook is proposed to be made official for a 0.5-mile-long tributary of Webb Brook. According to the proponent, the stream was named for John Ellis, who lived in the Rockingham area in the late eighteenth century. The stream is connected via pipe to Minards Pond to supplement the Bellows Falls water supply.

#### **Farr Brook**

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.1576&p\\_longi=-72.4717](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.1576&p_longi=-72.4717)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.1562813&p\\_longi=-72.480305](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.1562813&p_longi=-72.480305)

The name Farr Brook is proposed to be made official for a 0.8-mile-long tributary of Web Brook. According to the proponent, the stream is named for Norman Farr, who moved to Bellows Falls in 1836,

where he was a businessman until his retirement in 1892. The stream is connected via pipe to Minards Pond to supplement the Bellows Falls water supply.

#### **Petty Brook**

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.2153289&p\\_longi=-72.5337165](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.2153289&p_longi=-72.5337165)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.2352433&p\\_longi=-72.5227889](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.2352433&p_longi=-72.5227889)

The name Petty Brook is proposed to be made official for a 1.8-mile-long tributary of the Williams River. The stream flows along what was once the main channel of Williams River, prior to a big flood in 1869. The name refers to two families who lived in the area in the late eighteenth century. Petty Road is nearby.

### **Names reported to be in local use**

#### **Barnes Brook**

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.1335&p\\_longi=-72.5164](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.1335&p_longi=-72.5164)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.07892&p\\_longi=-72.54721](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.07892&p_longi=-72.54721)

This 4.4-mile-long tributary of Saxtons River is proposed to be named officially Barnes Brook. The name, which was suggested by a river steward for the Connecticut River Watershed Council and longtime resident of Westminster, would honor Laurentius F. Barnes, who purchased property in 1881 and was the first member of the Barnes family to settle in the area.

#### **Hitchcock Brook**

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.138&p\\_longi=-72.5318](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.138&p_longi=-72.5318)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.1297154&p\\_longi=-72.5480752](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.1297154&p_longi=-72.5480752)

The name Hitchcock Brook is proposed to be made official for a 1.1-mile-long tributary of Saxtons River. The name would honor Amos Hitchcock, who arrived in the area before 1817. The name was submitted by an individual who has lived near the stream for many years and who recalls that the descendants of Hitchcock were still living on the adjacent property in the mid-twentieth century. The stream flows alongside Hitchcock Road.

#### **Locke Brook**

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.1906&p\\_longi=-72.4806](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.1906&p_longi=-72.4806)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.2145375&p\\_longi=-72.4901486](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.2145375&p_longi=-72.4901486)

This two-mile-long stream is proposed to be named officially Locke Brook to honor Ebenezer Locke who arrived in the area around 1785. The first house he built was next to the stream, while his second home that is still standing is part of the Parker Hill Historic District. Locke was active in town affairs and has many descendants in the town.

#### **Noyes Brook**

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.1331201&p\\_longi=-72.4816939](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.1331201&p_longi=-72.4816939)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.1258996&p\\_longi=-72.4946709](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.1258996&p_longi=-72.4946709)

This 1.3-mile-long tributary of Saxtons River is proposed to be named officially Noyes Brook to honor the Noyes family, who owned a farm within the stream's watershed. Although no specific members of the family were identified, a search of online genealogical records shows that many individuals with the

surname Noyes lived in Rockingham as early as the late nineteenth century. Noyes Street is located nearby. Two members of the family, who still own the farm, support the proposal.

#### **Warner Brook**

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.1367&p\\_longi=-72.5073](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.1367&p_longi=-72.5073)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.13167&p\\_longi=-72.50474](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.13167&p_longi=-72.50474)

This 0.4-mile-long tributary of Saxtons River is proposed to be named officially Warner Brook in honor of Sarah J. (d. 1895) and Samuel J. Warner. Upon Sarah's death, the property was bequeathed to the Warner Center, which in 1908 became the Kurn Hattin Homes for Children. The present-day owner of the Warner Center suggested this name.

#### **IV. Revised Decisions - none**

#### **V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties**

##### **Earth Day Sinking Stream, Florida**

(Review List 401)

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=30.6319444&p\\_longi=-84.8872222](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=30.6319444&p_longi=-84.8872222)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=30.6305555&p\\_longi=-84.8897222](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=30.6305555&p_longi=-84.8897222)

The new name Earth Day Sinking Stream is proposed for a stream in Gadsden County between the travel lanes of an Interstate 10 rest area east of the Apalachicola River. After only about 0.2 miles, the stream flows into a small karst feature and continues underground to an unknown outlet. The stream is proposed to be named in association with a cave known to local cavers as Earth Day Cave.

A nearby stream included in a related name proposal was approved as Copperhead Branch by the BGN in 2009. The proposal for Earth Day Sinking Stream was deferred at the same meeting due to questions about the significance of the name and the wisdom in naming the stream in association for the cave which was not recorded in GNIS. Members also questioned whether the Florida State Names Authority had considered these issues.

The proponent reported that the name refers to the discovery of the cave and stream. At an Earth Day fair at Florida State University in 1979, a student informed members of the Florida State Cave Club (since renamed the Flint River Grotto) of the cave's existence and location.

The name Earth Day Cave is published on a map published in 1995 by the Florida State Cave Club and so it has been added to GNIS (the entry is not retrievable at the GNIS website, in accordance with the BGN's compliance with the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988).

Both the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Northwest Florida Water Management District support this name. The Gadsden County Commissioners have no opinion. The Florida State Names Authority has no objection.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized tribes: the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, the Poarch Band of Creek Indian of Alabama, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

## **Twelve stream and waterfall names in the Town of Rockingham, Vermont**

(Review List 425)

The following twelve names were proposed by a representative of the Rockingham Conservation Commission (RCC) in the Town of Rockingham in Windham County (an additional eleven commemorative name proposals from the same proponent are listed in Section III above). The following names are proposed to be made official either because they are published in non-Federal sources or because the features do not have existing names.

### **Names found on sources other than Federal maps**

#### **Beaver Dam Brook**

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.1345&p\\_longi=-72.5147](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.1345&p_longi=-72.5147)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.11296&p\\_longi=-72.51528](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.11296&p_longi=-72.51528)

This 1.2-mile-long tributary of Saxtons River is proposed to be named officially Beaver Dam Brook. The name refers to nearby Beaver Dam Hill and the Beaver Dam Schoolhouse that once operated in the area (neither of these features are listed in GNIS). The schoolhouse is now a private home. The proponent reports that there was a beaver dam on the stream that created a small pond at the stream's lower end that has since developed into a large marsh.

#### **Gages Falls**

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.1163&p\\_longi=-72.4562](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.1163&p_longi=-72.4562)

This three-foot high waterfall is proposed to be named officially Gages Falls in recognition of its proximity to Gage's Mill, a nineteenth-century basket factory that was located at the foot of the falls. The stone foundations of the mill still remain. A local resident located a postcard of the falls labeled "Gages Falls." Two variant names for the community of North Westminster are Gages Mills and Gageville.

#### **Hyde Hill Brook**

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.1373837&p\\_longi=-72.4551792](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.1373837&p_longi=-72.4551792)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.1333743&p\\_longi=-72.4586488](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.1333743&p_longi=-72.4586488)

This proposal is to make official the name Hyde Hill Brook for a 0.3-mile-long stream that flows in a northeasterly direction through the Village of Bellows Falls. According to a 2010 Rockingham town plan, in which the stream is referred to as Hyde Hill Brook, much of the stream is piped underground before entering the town's pumping station. The stream is subject to frequent flooding, and so in 1992 the Town conducted a Hyde Hill Brook Drainage Basin Study. The proponent notes also that Hyde Hill is a locally used name, either as a variant of Oak Hill, located near the head of the stream, or for one of the peaks on Oak Hill. The stream also flows under Hyde Street.

#### **Pleasant Valley Brook**

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.1381&p\\_longi=-72.5133](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.1381&p_longi=-72.5133)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.169756&p\\_longi=-72.520865](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.169756&p_longi=-72.520865)

This 2.4-mile-long tributary of Saxtons River drains the southern half of Pleasant Valley and flows along Pleasant Valley Road.

### **Saxtons River Falls**

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.137742&p\\_longi=-72.5096222](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.137742&p_longi=-72.5096222)

This 19-foot tall waterfall is proposed to be named officially Saxtons River Falls for the stream and village in which it is located. Although the proposed name is also been used to refer to other falls along Saxtons River, it is most often applied to the feature in question. In the nineteenth century, there was a dam on the falls which was used to power Frey's Mill. Only stone foundations of the mill and a raceway remain today. Because this is one of three falls in the village, this feature is sometimes known as Middle Falls.

### **Signal Hill Brook**

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.1396&p\\_longi=-72.5025](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.1396&p_longi=-72.5025)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.1660468&p\\_longi=-72.4963485](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.1660468&p_longi=-72.4963485)

This 2.5-mile-long stream heads on Signal Hill and flows south along Rockingham Hill Road to join Saxtons River. The proponent reports that the proposed name is used by Vermont Agency of Natural Resources staff for water quality monitoring. Signal Hill was named after "early settlers are said to have signaled across the river to their friends in Walpole during Indian emergencies." A 2014 Vermont water quality standards document refers to the stream as Bolles Brook, and one local resident claims he knows it as Storey Brook.

### **Skunk Hollow Brook**

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.2297144&p\\_longi=-72.5413049](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.2297144&p_longi=-72.5413049)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.2497939&p\\_longi=-72.534318](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.2497939&p_longi=-72.534318)

This 2.1-mile-long stream flows through a valley that the proponent reports is known locally as Skunk Hollow. According to a local resident, nearby Lower Bartonsville Road was once called Skunk Hollow Road. A hand-drawn map, produced in 1967 by a local resident, labels the stream Skunk Hollow Brook.

### **Twin Falls**

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.1166&p\\_longi=-72.4536](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.1166&p_longi=-72.4536)

This 19-foot-high waterfall is proposed to be named officially Twin Falls. A published description of the area refers to the feature as the best-known of the five named waterfalls in or near Rockingham; the name is included in six waterfall guides. According to the proponent, these falls may also be the prettiest of the five, but it is also extremely dangerous and so swimming is not allowed. The falls can be seen from Forest Road and were once known locally as Forest Falls. The name refers to the two waterfalls or plunges that constitute the feature.

## **Newly proposed names**

### **Brockways Mills Brook**

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.2067&p\\_longi=-72.5094](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.2067&p_longi=-72.5094)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.2346932&p\\_longi=-72.5019417](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.2346932&p_longi=-72.5019417)

This 2.3-mile-long tributary of the Williams River is proposed to be named Brockways Mills Brook in association with the community of Brockways Mills, located close to the mouth of the stream. Jonathan Brockway was the first of the family to settle in the area, arriving in 1820. His brother Zebah arrived a few years later and acquired the mills.

### **Sokoki Falls**

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.2086078&p\\_longi=-72.5170712](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.2086078&p_longi=-72.5170712)

This 16-foot high waterfall, located along the Williams River in the community of Brockways Mills, is proposed to be named Sokoki Falls. The proposal states, “A resident near the falls asked local Abenaki leaders to suggest an Abenaki name for these falls, since there was no name in local usage [and] and we have so few local Abenaki place names (Connecticut is one of the few).” Further, “Sokoki is the name of the band of the Abenaki that traditionally lived in this area of the Middle and Upper Connecticut River Valley. Through migration and intermarriage, the Sokoki bloodline is now widespread throughout the Western Abenaki people. The name was suggested by Roger Longtoe, who is an Abenaki chief living in Jamaica, Vermont. He told me that the name has the support of several Abenaki chiefs.”

### **Upper Meadows Brook**

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.1974841&p\\_longi=-72.4498031](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.1974841&p_longi=-72.4498031)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.21236&p\\_longi=-72.4621](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.21236&p_longi=-72.4621)

This 1.9-mile-long stream, proposed to be named Upper Meadows Brook, heads on the east side of Coburn Hill before flowing through Upper Meadows and into Roundys Cove. The name was suggested by a local resident, who noted that this was a traditional Abenaki summer gathering area, as well as one of the first areas of white settlement in the town. The stream flows under Upper Meadows Road, and there was once an Upper Meadows School District No. 5 in the vicinity.

### **Wiley Hill Brook**

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.1973&p\\_longi=-72.4964](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.1973&p_longi=-72.4964)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.189&p\\_longi=-72.5368](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.189&p_longi=-72.5368)

This 2.2-mile-long stream, proposed to be named Wiley Hill Brook, heads on the slope of a summit that the proponent reports is known locally as Wiley Hill, before flowing northeast through the north end of Pleasant Valley. A nearby road is named Wiley Hill Road, and according to Hayes, the area was once known as the Wiley District. Robert and Abigail Wiley arrived in the area in 1794.