

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD



WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886

**TOWN OF WATERFORD, CT
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

Date: December 31, 2013

To: Robert Hust – CT DEEP
Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water protection and land Reuse
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Re: Streamflow Classification mapping
Thames, Pawcatuck & Southeast Coastal basins

Comments on Stream Classifications assigned to
Certain Stream Segments in the Town of Waterford

Mr Hust:

Please accept for consideration the following comments regarding the stream flow classifications for the following surface waters classified in the Town of Waterford, within the Thames, Pawcatuck and Southeast Coastal Basins

The comments are derived from a combination of personal observations on stream quality and water chemistry results from the past 15 years of a twice-yearly water monitoring program conducted by the Town of Waterford Planning Office, and recommendations and observations compiled in our 2 watershed management plans prepared for Stony Brook (Milone & MacBroom 2006) and Jordan Brook (Fuss & O’Neill, 2000).

Drainage Basin: Niantic River
Stream Segment(s): 108, 002, 035 - Oil Mill Brook b/t Gurley Rd and Scenic View Drive

Recommended Classification

& Comments: Recommend rank of Class 2
Stream reach in low-developed drainage area, direct discharge from I-95 minimal, Properties in contributing watershed protected with Conservation Easement and Open Space designations. Future development will require riparian corridor protection for water quality and flow.

Drainage Basin: Niantic River
Stream Segment(s): 108, 002, 082 - Stony Brook tributary south of I-95 at interchange 81

Recommended Classification

& Comments: Recommend rank of Class 2

Perennial stream on farmland property, channel impacted from past farming operations, but does not receive direct run-off from I-95, interchange drainage runs to the north of highway; Future development will require stream corridor protection as a tributary to a native trout stream –Stony Brook, as recommended in the Stony Brook watershed management plan.

Drainage Basin: Niantic River
Stream Segment(s): 108, 002, 046 - Stony Brook tributary north of I-95, west of Cross Rd
Recommended Classification
& Comments: Recommend rank of Class 1

Stream reach protected in perpetuity by Conservation Easement over large forested wetland on Sonalysts property

Drainage Basin: Southeast Shoreline
Stream Segment(s): 108, 002, 336 - Millstone (Beebee) Brook reach from Daniels Ave to Rte 156
Recommended Classification
& Comments: Recommend rank of Class 1

Stream reach protected by CLP right-of-way from Daniels Ave to Spithead Rd. South of Spithead Rd, stream channel protected by Conservation Easement lands and wetland protection areas established as part of adjacent residential development between Spithead Road and Rte 156. Stream of high quality, with very high habitat value ratings.

Drainage Basin: Jordan Brook
Stream Segment(s): 108, 002, 108 – tributary from Tyack Swamp to Jordan Brook mainstem.
Recommended Classification
& Comments: Recommend rank of Class 1

This tributary reach flows through a 80+ acre shrub swamp known as Tyack Swamp. It does not receive stormwater run-off from any roadway or development and the adjacent drainage area supports little to no upland developable area. The large wetland and tributary are ranked as high functional value wetlands and wetlands of significance in the Jordan brook watershed management plan. Future development in this drainage area will require strict controls for water quality and hydrology. The swamp is a large reservoir for groundwater discharge to the adjacent fishery of Jordan Brook mainstem

Drainage Basin: Jordan Brook
Stream Segment(s): 108, 002, 099, 114 & 140 – Nevins Brook mainstem.

Recommended Classification
& Comments: Recommend rank of Class 2

This is the upper reach of Nevins Brook, a perennial stream reach upstream of Fog Plain Road that supports observed native trout fishery in the lower mainstem. The drainage area has little development. The wetland corridor and Nevins Brook channel are ranked as very high functional quality within the Jordan brook watershed management plan. Future development will require protection of the riparian corridor and water quality and hydrology.

Drainage Basin: Jordan Brook
Stream Segment(s): 108, 002, 113 – tributary to Nevins Brook

Recommended Classification
& Comments: Recommend rank of Class 2

This tributary to Nevins Brook does not receive direct run-off from I-95 and the drainage area is relatively undeveloped, supporting secondary forestland. The Jordan Brook watershed management plan ranks the wetland as having high functional value. Future development in this drainage area will require protection of the riparian corridor wetlands and stream water quality and hydrology.

Drainage Basin: Jordan Brook
Stream Segment(s): 108, 002, 113 – tributary to Nevins Brook.

Recommended Classification
& Comments: Recommend rank of Class 2

This tributary to Nevins Brook is minimally affected by stormwater run-off from adjacent residential development. The drainage area to this tributary is composed of forested cemetery lands, designated open space forest land and a conservation easement along the channel and riparian wetland. The Jordan Brook watershed management plan ranks the wetland as having very high functional value in the watershed. Future development in this drainage area will require protection of the riparian corridor wetlands and stream water quality and hydrology.

Drainage Basin: Jordan Brook
Stream Segment(s): 108, 002, 159, 192, 270 – mainstem of Nevins Brook, south of Fog Plain Road, to Rope Ferry Road (Rte 156).

Recommended Classification
& Comments: Recommend rank of Class 1

This portion of Nevins Brook has been observed to support native brook trout. It is also directly connected to the lower mainstem of Jordan Brook and the anadromous fish run re-introduced to the area with the fish ladder at Jordan mill Pond dam.

Drainage Basin: Southeast Shoreline
Stream Segment(s): 108, 002, 297 & 306 – tributary to Jordan Brook,

Recommended Classification
& Comments: Recommend rank of Class 2

These stream reaches do not flow east towards Fenger Brook but to the west, as a tributary to Jordan Brook. The railroad disconnects this section of channel from Fenger Brook drainage basin. The class 3 ranking is low for this wetland resource. Although this portion of the channel is not a known or observed fishery, the stream hydrology is supported by a large forested wetland corridor. The lands west of Miner Lane are part of the Town of Waterford High School property. The upstream portion of the same channel has been classified as Class 1. Future land use in this drainage area will require wetland

protection measures and water quality protection per the recommendations on the Jordan Brook watershed management plan

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the stream classifications. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me directly at 860 440-0501.

Respectfully;



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Town of Waterford, CT



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