

I am writing to welcome and encourage Wallingford's participation in a stream restoration project. The state, US Forest Service, and Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District are working on a project to assess the potential for berm removal/relocation along Homer Stone Brook near Audy Lane. As you may know, this stretch of river has been historically straightened and bermed. During tropical storm Irene, the brook breached part of the berm and became trapped on the other side. The brook carved a new path the Otter Creek, causing substantial erosion in the process. The brook was eventually redirected back into its channel and the berms were reconstructed higher. Homer Stone Brook is now confined to this artificially narrow, straightened channel. Restoring Homer Stone Brook's floodplain connections will provide room for flood waters to spread out, slow down, and deposit sediment, reducing the amount that is conveyed directly to the Otter Creek.

We will soon be issuing a request for proposals for consultants to conduct a field survey and perform hydraulic and hydrologic modeling to assess potential alternatives. While no permits will be required for this preliminary design project, state and local permits would likely be required for the implementation of any identified design involving the removal or relocation of berms. The stream reach is in a FEMA mapped AE zone with a floodway, as shown on the attached ANR atlas map. As a participating community in the National Flood Insurance Program, the town of Wallingford would require a municipal conditional use permit to be obtained for any man-made changes to a FEMA mapped floodway. The hydraulic and hydrologic modeling will provide technical details intended to meet the conditional use permit standards.

We expect to hold meetings with landowners, including residents and the USFS this summer and will hold a public meeting in the fall/winter to discuss findings and gather additional input.

Please don't hesitate to contact myself with any questions. I look forward to working with you.

Dave



David Rosa, Ph.D. | Western VT Floodplain Manager
450 Asa Bloomer State Office Building
Rutland, VT 05701-59032
C 802-490-6154