



THE VERMONT RIVER CONSERVANCY

Conserving Shorelands and Access

08/9/2018

PO Box 249

1 South St.
Bristol, VT 05443

RECEIVED

AUG 13 2018

Town of Bristol

Dear Town of Bristol,

On behalf of the staff and Board of the Vermont River Conservancy, I would like to thank you for participating in another successful year monitoring our conserved lands. We rely on you and 88 other landowners throughout the state who have also conserved land with the Vermont River Conservancy to help keep Vermont waters and rivers healthy and free flowing. Since 1995, the Vermont River Conservancy has conserved 89 properties with River Corridor or Public Access easements ranging in size from a ½ acre to 73 acres, totaling 1,917 acres of land, and 44.5 miles of river frontage along 36 rivers.

Every year we reach out to you before our visit to let you know we are coming, to ask if you have observed any changes to your river lands since last year, have plans to make any changes, and if you have any questions about the VRC easement on your land. So far this year we have spoken with many of you. Thank you for sharing your experiences of living along your river lands.

Vermont River Conservancy relies on your collaboration to maintain the conservation values of your easement. The easement is unchanging, while land and rivers are dynamic and ever changing. To continue to maintain the terms of the easement we remind you to please:

- Contact us before making any alterations to the protected property – including selling the land – so we are aware of any changes and can verify they meet the terms of the easement.
- Allow the river to move, flood and change without interference.
- Allow the riparian buffer area (often 50' from the top of the bank, check your easement for specifics) to grow trees and shrubs without interference.
- Contact us with any questions, no matter how small. It is much easier to discuss a question than it is to resolve an issue.

Every year during our monitoring visits we find conserved properties that have recently flooded, and we see first-hand how essential floodplains and vegetated buffers are in allowing rivers to meander, slowdown storm water, deposit sediment, and protect our homes and communities from flood damage. Floodplains, like yours, are valuable for improving water quality and flood resiliency, and the Vermont River Conservancy works closely with you to protect them. Should you ever have a question, whether it be about natural changes in the river or land, invasive species within the conserved property, or the easement terms on your property, we encourage you to contact us at any time. We want to answer your questions and help you steward your river lands.

Thank you for joining us in protecting Vermont's rivers.

Sincerely,

Lydia Menendez Parker

P.S. Please join us for our 2nd Annual Vermont River Conservancy Gala on Saturday, August 25th, 5:00 - 8:00 pm at the Knoll Farm in Waitsfield, VT. To reserve your tickets today, visit: www.vermontriverconservancy.org or call us at 802-229-0820 for more info.

P.P.S. The Vermont River Conservancy has practices and policies in place to help us work with the variety of lands, rivers, and landowner situations that may arise over time. You can find our *Conservation Easement Amendment Policy* and *Violations Policy* on our website: <http://www.vermontriverconservancy.org/about-vermont-river-conservancy/policies>