

October 22, 2010

Re: **Municipal Plan & Regulation Review**
Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook
Wild and Scenic Study Committee

To whom it may concern,

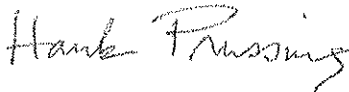
As a member of the Hartland Wetlands Commission (HWC), I am currently participating in the process of revising the Wetlands Regulations of the Town of Hartland. On the verge of completion, this process has been a lengthy one, as the regulations had not been amended for many years. The HWC resolved to comprehensively review and assess each section of the regulations, and to update the document where required to better reflect Hartland's evolving commitment to the preservation of wetlands and watercourses.

The HWC is composed of volunteers, and Hartland's municipal government has limited staff resources. Consequently, to guide us through the regulation update process, we have relied on our own personal research, the expertise of our Wetlands Enforcement Officer, and outside expertise where we can find it.

It has been fortuitous that the Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee developed their "Municipal Plan & Regulation Review" at the very time that the HWC was in need of such a review of the land use regulations of nearby towns. With this guide at hand, the HWC has been able to compare our water-related regulatory measures with those of Granby, Simsbury and seven other nearby towns that share the same watershed system with Hartland! Partly as a result of this increased awareness of what adjacent municipalities are doing to protect their wetlands and watercourses, the HWC is about to implement increases in our upland review buffer area as well as in our application fee structure. In addition, we shall be adding sections to accommodate conservation easements and timber harvest notifications.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude, on behalf of the HWC, to the Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee for producing the "Municipal Plan & Regulation Review". The Committee's work has made clear to me the importance of establishing a coordinated regional effort to protect the water resources of this lovely part of the world for the flora and fauna, including humans, who depend upon it.

Sincerely,



Hank Prussing

Member, Hartland Wetlands Commission
Hartland, Connecticut 06027