

Vermont Board of Libraries

GEOGRAPHIC NAMES POLICIES

The Board of Libraries is the statutorily designated body to name geographic locations, including mountains, streams, lakes and ponds. (10 V.S.A. § 151-154). To meet its statutory responsibilities, the Board will adhere to the following policies:

- I. The Board will rely on 10 V.S.A. § 154 in making decisions: "...give preference to historical events, historic persons and flora and fauna native to Vermont, names characteristic to Vermont and its traditions and local place names where long usage has made them appropriate and useful."
- II. The Board will not approve more than one name for any geographic feature or location.
- III. The Board will not name any geographic feature or location that commemorates or may be construed to commemorate living persons.
 - A person must have been deceased for at least five years before a commemorative proposal will be considered.
 - A person in whose honor a naming is being proposed must have had strong ties to the feature in keeping with 10 V.S.A. § 154 or have made a significant contribution to the area or to Vermont.
 - Commemorative names for individuals with outstanding national or international reputation will be considered even if those individuals were not directly associated with the geographic feature or location.
- IV. The Board will not name state roads, highways, bridges or other transportation-related entities. These come under the jurisdiction of the Vermont Transportation Board.
- V. The Board will not name city streets or town roads. These come under the jurisdiction of the municipalities.
- VI. The Board will recommend to the U. S. Board on Geographic Names that it not make official for use in or on any Federal publication any Vermont name or name change for geographic features or locations which should come to the Vermont Board of Libraries for such action.
- VII. The Board will consider no petition from an administrative department of State government unless that administrative department's governing board has voted to initiate the petition and a copy of the minutes pertaining thereto accompany the petition.
- VIII. The Board has the authority to determine whether it will take any action on a petition when no one appears at the public hearing to testify either on behalf of or against the proposed naming. (This was a telephone opinion by Louis Peck, Assistant Attorney General, April 28, 1978.)