

Board of Libraries
Vermont Department of Libraries
60 Washington Street, Suite 2
Barre, Vermont 05641

August 24th, 2022

Dear members of the Board of Libraries,

Enclosed you will find a petition to rename Negro Brook in Townshend, Vermont. Through an inclusive process, a small group of residents of Townshend and nearby towns revisited the question of this brook, understanding that the previous geographic naming petition process in 2021, with a different group of petitioners, confirmed that a majority of those engaging expressed a desire to change the name.

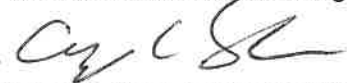
With goals of identifying an appropriate name and engaging the residents of Townshend in this topic, our group spent considerable time over many months meeting informally and formally with the Townshend Historical Society and the Townshend Selectboard. In addition, outreach to the local organization of the Elnu Abenaki tribe and the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People occurred.

With prior research conducted by earlier petitioners, the group consulted with the president of the Townshend Historical Society for recommendations for renaming the brook. After additional research, including town records, it was decided to take the recommendation of the name *Huzzy Brook*, after many discussions of possible variations, to honor both James and Susannah Huzzy.

The group engaged with many Townshend residents, as well as additional local residents, and many others visiting the area through a variety of events and processes. We also engaged with members of the Vermont Board of Libraries staff on the process.

Enclosed with the petition you will find letters of support and signatures from a sizeable group of supporters.

We look forward to meeting with you on this important issue.



Lynne C. Shea, named petitioner
Townshend, VT



State of Vermont
Department of Libraries
60 Washington Street, Suite 2
Barre, VT 05641
Phone: 802-636-0040
libraries.vermont.gov

Agency of Administration

Vermont Board of Libraries
GEOGRAPHIC NAMING PETITION

The Vermont Board of Libraries (the Board) is the statutorily designated body to name Vermont geographic locations, including mountains, streams, lakes, and ponds. (10 V.S.A. § 151-154).

According to state statute, "The Board in choosing names shall 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." (10 V.S.A. § 154)

Please note:

- The Board will not name state roads, highways, bridges, or other transportation-related entities. These come under the jurisdiction of the Vermont Transportation Board.
- The Board will not name city streets or town roads. These come under the jurisdiction of the municipalities.

This Geographic Naming Petition is a request that the Vermont Board of Libraries consider the geographic naming proposal as described below.

A. Required Information and Materials

1. This petition is a request for the Board of Libraries to (select one):

Name a currently unnamed geographic feature.

Rename a geographic feature, which is currently named:

Negro Brook

2. Proposed Name:

Huzzy Brook



| |
|----------------------------------|
| ProposedName: <u>Huzzy Brook</u> |
| Municipality: <u>Townshend</u> |

3. Does the petition include signatures of not less than twenty-five persons who support this proposal of a new name or name change of a geographic location?

Yes No

4. Is the geographic feature located in the State of Vermont?

Yes No

5. The geographic feature is located in the municipality/municipalities of

_____Townshend_____

in the County/Counties of Windham_____.

6. The Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates of the geographic feature are:

Longitude: -72.6929910,-72.7130050_____

Latitude: 43.0433510,43.0220960_____

7. A map with the geographic feature clearly labeled must accompany the petition.

Is a map included with your petition? Yes No

8. Description of the exact geographic feature to be named (e.g. mileage, shape, length, width, mouth, confluence, source, headwater, relevant adjacent features): Negro Brook is located in the Townshend State Forest and empties into the West River; the brook is 3356.7749 Shape.ST Length, and is within a recreational area (hiking, camping). See appendix A.

Additional pages may be attached as necessary.



| |
|---|
| Proposed Name: <u>_Huzzy Brook_____</u> |
| Municipality: <u>Townshend _____</u> |

9. Written documentation including historical information, government records, and any other documents or publications relevant to the proposed geographic name must be included with the petition to support the proposed geographic name consistent with 10 V.S.A. § 154.

9a. Is written documentation included with your petition? Yes No
If yes, please indicate what types of written documentation is included with your petition (check all that apply):

- Historical Information,
- Government Records,
- Newspaper articles or clippings,
- References in books or other bound publications
- Historic maps

B. Reason for Proposal

10. Please provide an explanation of the reason for proposing this name for this geographic feature: _____ The word "negro" is deemed offensive to many and is not reflective of evolving socio-cultural usage. See Appendix B

Additional pages may be attached as necessary.



| |
|--|
| ProposedName: <u> Huzzy_Brook </u> |
| Municipality: <u> Townshend </u> |

11a. Is this petition to name a geographic feature after a person? Yes No

If yes, please respond to 11b-f. If no, please skip to 12.

11b. Has the individual been deceased for at least five years? Yes No

11c. Individual's date of birth: James Huzzy 1734 and Susannah Huzzy 1750

11d. Individual's date of death: James Huzzy 1822 and Susannah Huzzy 1854

11e. Please explain the individual's connection to the geographic feature or the significant contribution they made to the area, or to Vermont:

 We wish to honor both Susannah (1750-1854) and James Huzzy (1734-1822), Black Americans who lived in the Townshend area (Acton became a part of Townshend in 1841) in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. See Appendix C.

 Additional pages may be attached as necessary.

11f. If the individual did not have a connection to the feature, the area, or Vermont, please share their outstanding national contributions or international reputation and why it would be appropriate to name this geographic feature in their honor:

Please include the **Proposed Name** and **Municipality** at the top of **pages 2-9** of the form.



| |
|----------------------------------|
| Proposed_Name: __Huzzy_Brook____ |
| Municipality: _Townshend |

C. Supplemental Information and Materials

12. Because local use and acceptance of a name is important, the Board encourages the Petitioner to seek assistance in researching the proposed name from the Vermont Historical Society, local historical societies, local libraries, and the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration prior to submitting the petition.

12a. Has research been conducted in support of the proposed name?

Yes No

If yes, please respond to 12b-c. If no, please skip to 13.

12b. Please share what research has been conducted (including which libraries, historical societies, municipal records, or archives were consulted):

_____Townshend Historical Society, Townshend Town records, National archives
of _Military_service_and_pension_records_(via_Ancestry.com)_____

Additional pages may be attached as necessary.

12c. Please share a what historical information about the geographic feature and the proposed name was discovered through research into the proposed name:

_____See_Appendix_C_____

Additional pages may be attached as necessary.



| |
|---------------------------------|
| Proposed_Name:_Huzzy_Brook_____ |
| Municipality:_Townshend_____ |

13. Because local use and acceptance of a name is important, the Board encourages the Petitioner to provide evidence of any published or verbal usage of the proposed name.

13a. Has evidence of any published or verbal usage of the proposed name been found?

Yes No

If yes, please respond to 13b. If no, please skip to 14.

13b. What evidence of published or verbal usage of the proposed name has been found?

Additional pages may be attached as necessary.

14. The Board strongly encourages the Petitioner to include written support for the proposal with the petition.

14a. Are letters of support included with the petition? Yes No

If yes, please respond to 14b. If no, please skip to 15.

14b. Which groups have offered support for the petition:

Federal, State, or local (municipal or county) agencies and governing bodies,

Native American Tribes,

Civic organizations, Historical societies, libraries,

Owner(s) of the property on which the geographic feature is located or

Others familiar with the geographic feature and the appropriateness of the proposal included with the petition



| |
|-----------------------------------|
| Proposed_Name: <u>Huzzy_Brook</u> |
| Municipality: <u>Townshend</u> |

15. The Board strives to name Vermont geographic features consistent with the Domestic Geographic Names Editorial Guidelines of the U.S. Bureau of Geographic Names, which can be found in Chapter 5 of their Principles, Policies, and Procedures Domestic Geographic Names document (https://geonames.usgs.gov/docs/pubs/DNC_PPP_DEC_2016_V.2.2.pdf).

Is the proposed name consistent with these guidelines?

Yes No Not Sure

D. Primary Contact for the Petition (the Petitioner)

16. Petitioner's Full Name:

17. Petitioner's Mailing Address (P.O Box / Street, Town, State, ZIP):

18. Petitioner's Primary Phone Numbers:

(primary) _____ (secondary) _____

19. Petitioner's Email Address:

20. Do the signers of the petition represent a group/organization? Yes No

If yes, please provide the name of the group/organization:



| |
|-----------------------------------|
| Proposed Name: <u>Huzzy Brook</u> |
| Municipality: <u>Townshend</u> |

F. Documentation Included with Petition (please check all that apply):

- Minimum of 25 signatures in support of the Geographic Naming Petition
- At least one map of the geographic feature (photocopies accepted)
- Additional documentation re: exact location of geographic of feature
- Historical records, government records, other documents or publications relevant to the proposed geographic name
- Additional documentation re: evidence of written or verbal usage of the proposed name
- Letters of support for the petition

Please be sure to include the proposed name and municipality on all additional pages submitted with the Petition.



G. Submittal of the Geographic Names Petition to the Board of Libraries

Please Send the completed Geographic Names Petition and all documentation including the **original signed petition** via USPS to:

Board of Libraries
c/o Vermont Department of Libraries
60 Washington Street, Suite 2
Barre, VT 05401-4209

Feature Details

Appendix A.

Feature ID: 1461200

Name: Negro Brook

Class: Stream

Location: Windham County - Vermont

Citation: **Source Type:** Map

Reference: US

Originator: U.S. Geological Survey

Publication Date: December 31, 1981

Map Name:

Series Name: Geographic Names Phase I data compilation (1976-1981)

Entry Date: October 28, 1980

***Elevation:** 137 meters / 449 feet

*Elevations from the **National Elevation Dataset**

| Census Code | Class Code | GSA Code | OPM Code |
|-------------|------------|----------|----------|
|-------------|------------|----------|----------|

Variant Names

Name Asc

| Name | Originator | Reference | Series Name | Publication Date | Source Url | Title | Edition | Notes | Additional Information |
|------|------------|-----------|-------------|------------------|------------|-------|---------|-------|------------------------|
|------|------------|-----------|-------------|------------------|------------|-------|---------|-------|------------------------|

None

Decisions

| Name | Date | Authority | Type |
|------|------|-----------|------|
|------|------|-----------|------|

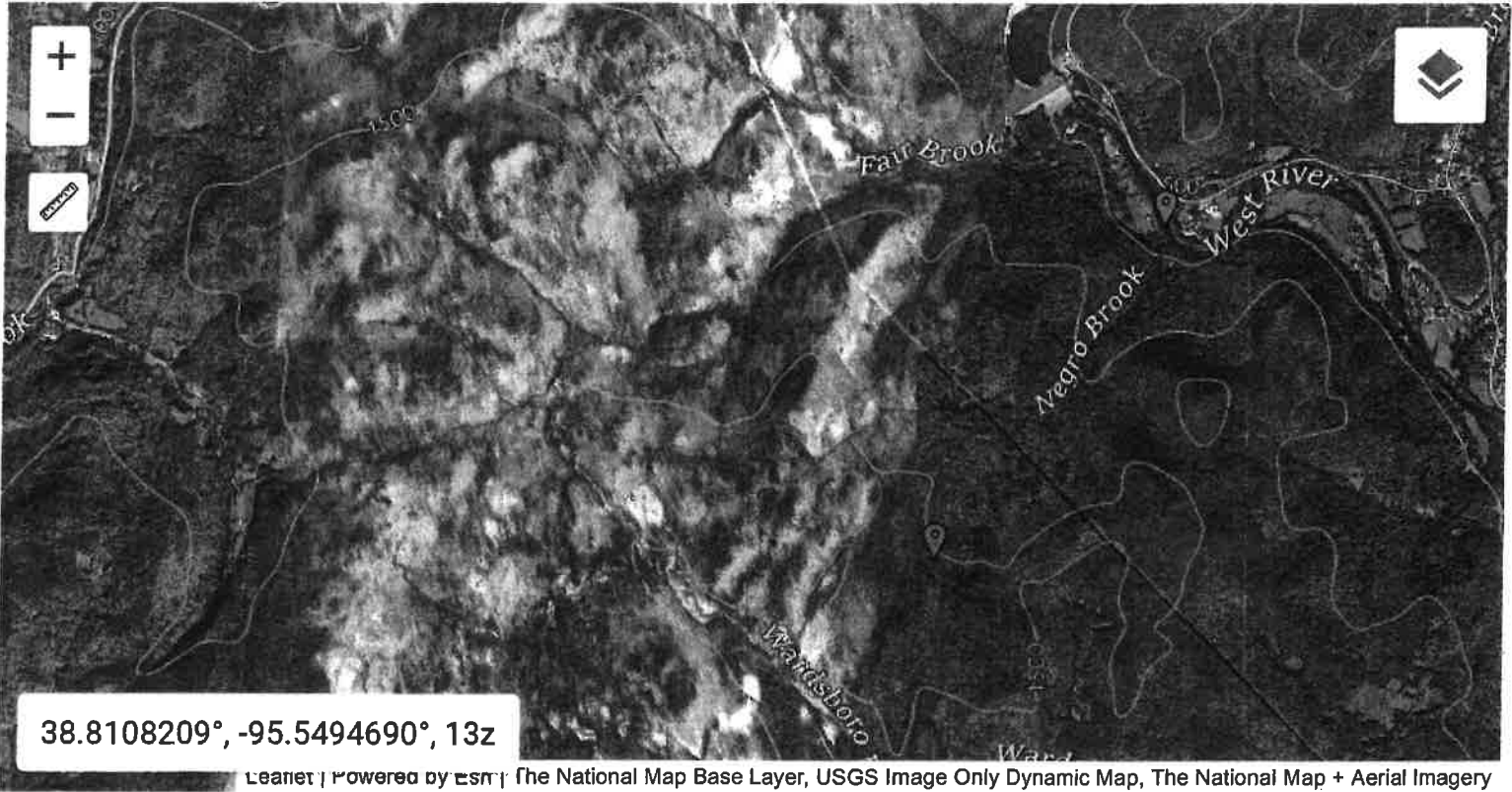
None

Coordinates

| Sequence | Coordinates | Map | State |
|----------|-------------------------|-----------|-------|
| 1 | 43.0433510, -72.6929910 | Townshend | VT |
| 2 | 43.0220960, -72.7130050 | Townshend | VT |

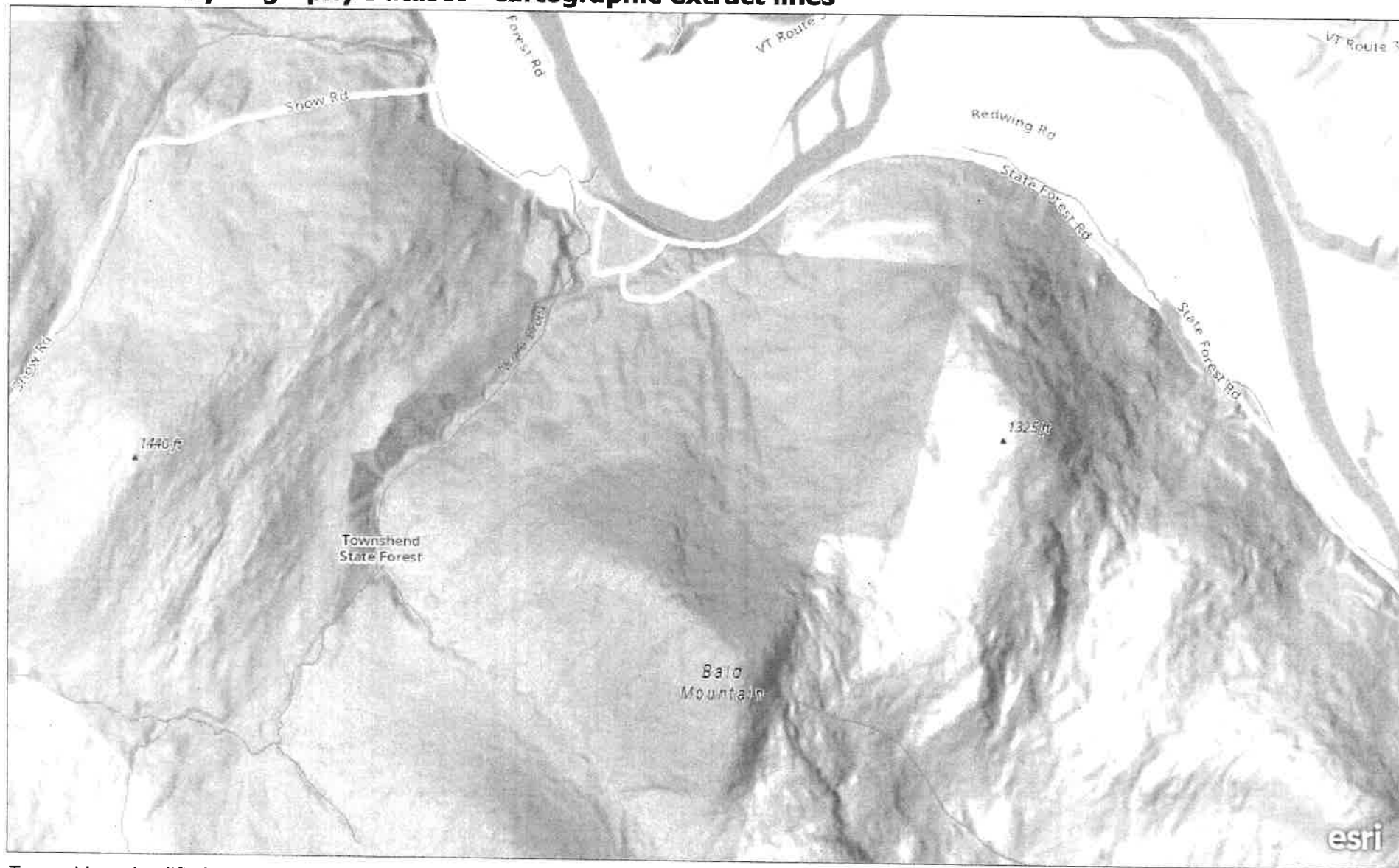
Government Units

| Sequence | State Or Equivalent | County Or Equivalent |
|----------|---------------------|----------------------|
|----------|---------------------|----------------------|



38.8108209°, -95.5494690°, 13z

VT Data - VT Hydrography Dataset - cartographic extract lines



To provide a simplified version of the Vermont Hydrography Dataset (VHD) for cartographic purposes that includes "perenniality" and Strahler stream order attribution. For full metadata on Local resolution NHD data follow this link - http://nhdgeo.usgs.gov/metadata/nhd_local.htm.

0.2mi

Appendix B. Rationale for Renaming

In the United States, the word 'negro' was used to count free slaves in the census. And in its earlier days, no name would be associated with the count of a "negro" household. To change the name of Negro Brook to an impactful local Black family from the early years of our country, is to acknowledge that every "negro" in Vermont has a name; and, that that identity matters.

Furthermore, because of this history, and its related etymology to the slave trade, it is at times considered antiquated and offensive to many folks of color. This is not reflective of our evolving socio-cultural usage.

Appendix C. Description of Historical documentation

We wish to honor both Susannah (1750-1854) and James Huzzy (1734-1822), Black Americans who lived in the Townshend area (including Acton, which became part of Townshend in 1841) in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. There is no complete historical record of the lives of these two individuals, as is the case for many living during this time-period, but especially those of Black Americans. However, we do have historical documentation of significant events in their lives.

James had enlisted as a soldier in 1775. Through the U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900, we have record of a warrant filed regarding James' service during this time. James Huzzey testified in Townshend that he enlisted in the spring of 1775 in and served until 1783 when he was honorably discharged. Susannah noted that they were married in 1776, in Upton, MA., after James had served in Lexington and was at Bunker Hill in 1775.

We also have documentation of James' service in Vermont, in which he is documented as serving for 127 days (See Appendix D). For the 1810 federal

census, the Huzzy family of eight was recorded in Townshend, VT (See Appendix E.) In 1818, James applied for a pension, in Townshend, and began receiving the pension the next year. By 1820, their Townshend household contained 5 people. [The federal census recorded only head of household names until 1850.] James died March 11, 1822

We have additional records of Susannah receiving James' pension after his death (see Appendix F.) and additional documentation of key dates, taken under oath, regarding various aspects of the couple's lives. While James and Susannah were not the only Black Americans residing in this area during this time- period (the 1810 census recorded 15 Black individuals in Townshend), they are representative of individuals whose lives suggest hard work, service, and perseverance, as well as the challenges reflective of this period in American history.

Susannah lived to the age of 104, a remarkable testimony to what we might call today "grit." Susannah is documented in the Townshend land records as being a landowner, being sold "a certain piece or parcel of land ...being in Townshend" by Eben Brigham, recorded on September 27th, 1826. This is remarkable as this is not typical of the time for a Black woman to be a property owner in Vermont.

Bibliography

Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files (NARA microfilm publication M804, 2,670 rolls). Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15. National Archives, Washington, D.C. James Huzzey, W.18091 and Susanna Huzzy B.L. Wt (warrant) 7092-160-55. U.S., Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Ancestry.com, accessed 2/8/22.

Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M246, 138 rolls); War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, Record Group 93; National Archives, Washington. D.C. "A pay roll of Captain Levi Goodenough's company; Samuel Herrick's regt. and raised by the State of Vermont, 1778." Ancestry.com. U.S., Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2007. Image accessed 2/4/2022.

The National Archives; Washington, D.C.; Ledgers of Payments, 1818-1872, to U.S. Pensioners Under Acts of 1818 Through 1858 From Records of the Office of the Third Auditor of the Treasury; Record Group Title: Records of the Accounting Officers of the Department of the Treasury; Record Group Number: 217; Series Number: T718; Roll Number: 15. James Huzzy U.S., Revolutionary War Pensioners, 1801-1815, 1818-1872, ancestry.com. Image accessed 2/8/2022.

Vermont, Windham County, Townshend Land Records, Vol 8, p. 211. Town Archives, Townshend, Vermont.

Vermont, Windham County. 1810 U.S. Census. NARA microfilm publication. Ancestry.com. 1810 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

Townshend Historical Society

PO Box 202

Townshend, VT

05353

June 20, 2022

Catherine Deineo

Vermont State Librarian

60 Washington Street, Suite 2

Barre, VT 05641

Dear Library Board Members,

The Townshend Historical Society supports the proposed change of the name of Negro Brook to Huzzy Brook for Susannah and James Huzzy. The brook is located within the Townshend State Forest. We were glad to provide the petitioners with supportive, historical documentation verifying that Susannah and James Huzzy resided in the Townshend area in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. We look forward to seeing this petition move on to the next phase in the process.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Marchant, President

The Townshend Historical Society



The Windham County Branch of the NAACP

P.O. Box 6164 Brattleboro, Vermont

Email: info@windhamnaacp.org or president@windhamnaacp.org

Date: Aug, 23, 2022

To: The Townshend Historical Society

From: The Windham County Branch of the NAACP

Dear Townshend Historical Society,

We, the Windham County Branch of the NAACP, are writing to you today to directly ask that you rename “Negro Brook” as soon as possible. We understand that this brook might have been named long ago, and we also understand that its name might carry cultural significance to some. However, for those who are the American descendants of slaves (ADOS), and their white allies, the word ‘negro’ often harkens memories of oppression that we collectively fought hard to overcome. “If us Black folks wanted to be called negros, then that’s what we would call ourselves. We do not use that word.”

Though it may seem abrupt, the excess of recent events, such as the murders of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Ahamad Aubrey, and hundreds of trans Black women (to name only a few) have accelerated a much-needed cultural shift around the language and the symbols that we use to represent our marginalized populations. Structurally, we believe that this linguistic shift points us in the right direction as the words we use and the symbols we espouse creates and contextualizes the world in which we live. We paint the picture, so we are responsible for its outcome. “We believe it is time for that world to reflect the values of all citizens of this nation, especially the voices of those whose hands built it.”

Lastly, we want to note that we stand in solidarity with those who are already petitioning you to change this name to something more fitting for the times of fierce liberation in which we live. We would graciously accept the opportunity to discuss and even help members of the town and the historical society in the renaming process. We recommend changing the name to **Huzzy Brook**. We hope to hear from you soon.

Signed,

Branch President, Steffen Glenn Gillom

Branch Vice President, Nader Hashim

Branch Vice President, Wichie Artu



TOWN OF TOWNSHEND
Selectboard
PO Box 121 Townshend, Vermont 05353

June 17, 2022

Catherine Deineo
Vermont State Librarian
60 Washington Street, Suite 2
Barre, VT 05641

Dear Library Board Members;

The Townshend Selectboard supports the proposed name change of a brook within the Townshend State Forest from Negro Brook to Huzzy Brook. Many Townshend residents have signed a petition requesting the change and the Townshend Historical Society has voted to support the name change as well.

Given this support and the history we have learned about Susannah and James Huzzy, the Selectboard has voted unanimously to support the change as well.

Finally, we ask that the Townshend Selectboard be notified of the State Library hearing concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherwood Lake". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sherwood Lake, Chair
Townshend Selectboard
PO Box 121
Townshend, VT 05353
Slakejr89@gmail.com

Vermont Board of Libraries
State of Vermont Department of Libraries
60 Washington Street
Barre, VT 05641

Attention: Tom Frank, Chair

Re VBL Hearing for Renaming of Negro Brook Petition

June 7, 2022

Dear Members of the Board,

I write to you again in my capacity as appointed spokesperson and Cultural Resource officer for the Elnu Abenaki Tribe, centered in southern Vermont and geographically the closest State-recognized Tribe to the subject feature in Townshend. Please enter this letter into the hearing record on this matter.

Elnu Abenaki would like to offer our support to the Petitioner's position in this shared effort to move toward respect, sensitivity, equity and inclusivity, with and for all community members. Whereas there may be ambiguity about the significance or intent in using a particular racialized term at its historical inception, we cannot ignore its associated potential for diminishing and harmful effects now and going forward. It is our responsibility as Indigenous People and as humans to foster balanced and affirming relationships with each other and with our Mother. The change from Negro Brook to Huzzy Brook is a positive and needful move toward balance.

The cultural biases that enable and empower disparate valuations and derivative treatment of other human beings spring from the same "othering" mindset of separability that spawns systemic settler colonialism. As we treat each other, so we treat the Land and – to be clear – All of Our Relations. When a toponym which, in the mouth and ears of its users, has strong potential to reinforce dysfunctional relationships is imposed upon this landscape, it is neither appropriate nor honoring. Further, as water is culturally considered the 'first medicine', the naming of this brook should engender healing and vital benefit.

Thank you for your consideration and we trust you will find a thoughtful resolution.

Rich Holschuh, on behalf of Elnu Abenaki Tribe

Tribal Headquarters
5243 VT Route 30
Jamaica, VT 05343





State of Vermont
Department of Libraries
60 Washington Street, Suite 2
Barre, VT 05641-4209

(802) 636-0040

Agency of Administration

Vermont Board of Libraries

GEOGRAPHIC NAMING PETITION

The attached petition is to formally request that the Vermont Board of Libraries give consideration to the geographic naming proposal as described below.

Date Petition Submitted to the State Librarian: _____

The undersigned are in agreement that the Board of Libraries approve

_____ Huzzy* Brook _____ (proposed name) as the name for
_____ Negro Brook _____

(brief description of geographic location/feature).

This feature is located in the Town of _____ Townshend _____, in the County of

_____ Windham _____, at the location described here:

Feature ID: 1461200 Coordinates: 43.0433510, -72.6929910 See Appendix A for map

Negro Brook is located primarily within the boundaries of Townshend State Forest, and empties into
the West River.

Please provide a brief description of the reason for proposing this name:

The word "negro" is deemed offensive to many and is not reflective of evolving socio-cultural usage.

See Appendix B

Please provide a brief description of the history of the feature and/or name:

We wish to honor both Susannah (1750-1854) and James Huzzy (1734-1822), Black Americans who lived in

the Townshend area (Acton became a part of Townshend in 1841) in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

See Appendix C

*Alternative spelling may be Huzzey in some documents



State of Vermont
Department of Libraries
60 Washington Street, Suite 2
Barre, VT 05641-4209

(802) 636-0040

Agency of Administration

Main Petitioner's Contact Information (Please print):

Name: Lynne C. Shea

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

Email: _____

Do you represent a group/organization? Yes* No

*If Yes, please provide the name of the group/organization:

This group is an informal collaborative of Townshend residents and neighbors, and thus unnamed.

Main Petitioner's Signature: LCSH

Date: 4/14/22

Please attach the following documentation to support this naming proposal:

- Available map(s) of the feature
- Letters of support
- Additional documentation concerning the history of feature and/or name
- Additional documentation concerning the reason for proposing this name
- Minimum of 25 signatures in support of the petition

Mail the original to:

State Librarian
Vermont Department of Libraries
60 Washington Street, Suite 2
Barre, VT 05401-4209

DO NOT COMPLETE THIS SECTION - FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Petition received: _____

Documentation: Signed Petition Form 25 Signatures Maps History Proposal Reason Letters of Support