

Dt: 6-30-21
To: Cape Elizabeth Town Council
Fr: Civil Rights Committee
Re: Water Body Naming Project

Having looked over the recommendations from the work of the Conservation Committee, we would like to highlight the following proposed names as potentially problematic:

S12--Ziggy Stream: This stream has been reportedly called by this name because it is seen as a place to stop and smoke cannabis; "ziggy" refers to smoking marijuana.

S27--Hicks Beck: Although we recognize this is likely a family name, we are concerned about the derogatory meaning of the word "hicks."

S29--Rebels Run: We are concerned that there could possibly be an association of the term "rebel" with the Confederacy and its support of slavery. The term "rebels run" has a longstanding association with the South and the Civil War.

S53--Nigawes: If a Native name is used we feel it should have a historical connection and meaning to the Town; we are also concerned about ways this particular name could be misspoken or misused.*

P10--Saunskwak: As above, we feel that Native names should not be used unless they have a particular connection and meaning to the Town. *

*A member of our Committee consulted with the historian for the Penobscot Nation about this issue, and we were advised to choose names that are meaningful to the Town and its residents, and not choose Native names in a well-meaning attempt to honor Native peoples.