

SRBTC_LETTER_TO_Wareham_BOS_20210401.doc

gday@searunbrookie.org

Thu 4/1/2021 9:54 PM

To: Kenneth Buckland <kbuckland@wareham.ma.us>; Sonia Raposo <sraposo@wareham.ma.us>;

📎 2 attachments (2 MB)

SRBTC_LETTER_TO_Wareham_BOS_20210401.doc; big_momma_salter_klane_pic_16_inch_408_mm_fish_Red_Brook_20170519.PNG;

Dear Kenneth Buckland and Members of the Wareham Planning Board,

Please find attached my letter of opposition regarding Wareham's effort to rezone to create a Hospitality, Recreational and Entertainment Overlay District."

Please submit this letter to the official record and please also read it into the record as well for the April 5 meeting in reference to the Special Town Meeting on April 10, 2021.

In addition to my opposition stated in this letter, I wish to further advocate for a greater understanding and appreciation for the unique natural history of Red Brook and the fish that live there.

Perhaps you are unaware that Theodore Lyman III purchased the bulk of lower Red Brook – in part as a response to his returning home from the Civil War, but also because he loved the fishing opportunities in Buttermilk Bay and Red Brook. He was a highly trained biologist and it must have been a marvelous time to fish and hunt in the area.

Lyman later was named the first Commissioner of Fisheries in Massachusetts in an agency that was ultimately to become Mass Fish and Wildlife. Lyman did a lot of his original fisheries biology research right on Red Brook.

To anglers, this was the beginning of enhancing fish populations with fish grown in hatcheries. Despite all his experimentation, Red Brook today remains unaffected by any of the non-native fish that Lyman would stock in "his" brook.

When Hal Lyman (Publisher of Saltwater Sportsman and descendant of T. Lyman III) later gifted the property to the Trustees, Trout Unlimited, and Mass Fish and Wildlife, he began another key chapter in history. This gift enabled Trout Unlimited to begin the first comprehensive headwaters – to estuary restoration project to restore a sea-run brook trout stream – and this enabled these fabulous fish to reproduce at bigger numbers and begin to grow to sizes known to ancient users of the brook.

See the attached image for a 16 inch salter electroshocked at Red Brook back in 2017. There is no question this fish is a sea-run fish – and it is also a marvelous surprise to any angler finding such a fish in such a tiny brook.

No wonder sea-run brook trout are regarded as "America's First Sport Fish"

An 1833 book written on the topic depicts "bushels of sea-run brook trout caught on a single tide"....

We may never return to those days, but these stories need to be told, and told again.

Rezoning the area for Hospitality, Recreational and Entertainment Overlay District and then building it out with the many and diverse buildings necessary to make this an economic success is likely to permanently end this unique story.

Please let me know if you wish discuss this or have any questions.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Day

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